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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1847.

REVIEWS

The Life and Correspondence of Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, G.C.B. By John Barrow, Esq. 2 vols. Bentley.

Sir Sidney Smith died in 1840;—and in seven years we have had two separate and somewhat lengthy memoirs of his life. The earlier memoir was written by the late Mr. Howard,—better known as the author of 'Ratlin the Reeler'; the latter one, the memoir now under review, is the work of Mr. Barrow, the author of 'The Life of Drake,' and the son of Sir John Barrow for so many years connected with the naval administration of this country. There was little in Mr. Howard's book likely to preserve it; and the life before us is a poor, tame performance,—a mere heaping together of letters and despatches, votes of Parliament, city resolutions, and 'The History of the Camelfords' (a taking subject most indifferently done),—with fifty pages of good matter in two volumes of a thousand. The history of the book, as detailed by Mr. Barrow, is shortly this.—In the early part of the present year, Mr. Bentley, the publisher, called upon Mr. Barrow to propose that he should write the Life, with a selection from the correspondence, of the late Sir Sidney Smith. Mr. Bentley, it appeared, had purchased a vast mass of original autograph MSS. and papers relating to Sir Sidney; and considering that a work of public interest might be produced from them, he placed them at once in Mr. Barrow's hands. A laborious examination of this mass of unarranged papers led to the discovery on Mr. Barrow's part "that there was scarcely sufficient available matter to carry out the proposed design." An application was therefore made to the relations and friends of Sir Sidney for such assistance as they were able and willing to afford:—assistance readily rendered, it appears, but without adding materially to the value of the narrative.—Mr. Barrow if he wishes to succeed as an author should endeavour to cultivate a better style; for though the rule is a good one with established authors never to think of style but let the style take care of itself,—with inexperienced writers it is exactly the reverse, and leads to disjointed sentences, ill-expressed paragraphs, and a verbiage which at once wearies and offends.

Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith was the second son of Captain John Smith of the Guards,—Gentleman-Usher to Queen Charlotte and Aide-de-Camp to Lord George Sackville Germain,—by Mary, daughter of Pinkney Wilkinson, an opulent London merchant. He was born on the 21st of June, 1764; and educated, it is thought, at Tunbridge School, under the mastership of Knox, the essayist. From thence he was withdrawn to a boarding-school at Bath. A little diligence on Mr. Barrow's part would have discovered his hero's place of birth, and whether he was or was not educated at Tunbridge School. This diligence, however, so incumbent on a biographer, Mr. Barrow has not chosen to exert;—so that, borrowing our facts as we do from the book before us, we must pass them by, and take the events and circumstances of the life as Mr. Barrow has chosen to collect them. His stay at school was unusually short. In his eleventh year he went to sea,—and he served in the American war "under the orders of Viscount Howe." In June 1777 he was appointed to the Tortoise; and this is the earliest entry connected with his name in the books of the Admiralty. From the Tortoise he was removed to the Unicorn,—from the Unicorn to the Arro-

gant,—and from the Arrogant, November 25th 1779, to the Sandwich. He served in the Sandwich under Sir George Rodney,—and was present at that commander's great victory over the Spaniards in 1780. Rodney removed him to the Alcide:—a removal which he communicates to his father in a letter dated on board the Alcide on the 20th of November, 1780.—

"Sir George Rodney only wanted reminding that there was such a person as me, for he no sooner was told I was arrived in the Greyhound, than he packed me off on board the Alcide, going out on a profitable cruise; as for his giving me a command, I am too young; besides he has more upon his list than he is likely to provide for in that way; perhaps he may recollect, in answer to my being too young, when he thinks of it, that I am as old as, and have been to sea much longer than, his son, who is a post-captain; he is very whimsical, and such a whim may take him if he was reminded by somebody else besides me."

The young lieutenant (for such he had now become) was present in Rodney's action of the 12th of April 1782 with the French fleet at the Leeward Islands under Count de Grasse; and remaining in the West Indies until the 21st of January 1784,—sailed for Spithead in the Alceme, proceeded to Woolwich and paid off his ship. While at Caen in Normandy, where he now resided for a short time, he paid a visit to La Hogue for the purpose of comparing the scene of Admiral Russell's action with the account contained in Campbell's 'Lives.'—

"I went to La Hogue, there to read Admiral Russell's letter, which I brought with me in a volume of Campbell's Admirals, from Caen, in the hope of being able to do this very thing. I found nobody alive who remembered anything about *le brûlement*, as they called it, though I was told of one old woman who was old enough to have been alive then. Everybody's father was there, and served in such a battery, but I could get no certain account from them where King James was encamped, and Campbell does not lead to that at all. They pointed out where the wrecks are still visible at very low spring tides, and the fishing for iron is even now a profitable employment; they are between the islands of Tatihou and La Hogue Point, before the village of St. Vans. I had read somewhere that the place from whence King James beheld the action was a kind of natural amphitheatre formed by the hills. I found a spot which answered this description, and flatter myself it was the very place; it is out of gunshot to the southward of the wrecks, but commands a fine view of all that could have passed."

From La Hogue Smith went to Gibraltar—another memorable spot; and from thence to Sweden,—then at war with Russia. While in Sweden, he obtained the notice of the King—performed certain services of importance—and received the honour of knighthood from Gustavus; an honour confirmed by his own sovereign at St. James's, on the 16th of May 1792. He now sought other employment; and (through the interest of Lord Grenville, then at the head of the Foreign Office) was sent on a secret mission to Constantinople. On his way home from this mission, he joined Lord Hood's flag at Toulon; and, though only a volunteer, was employed on the hazardous and important service of burning the ships and arsenal. Two short notes from Lord Hood to Sir Sidney will be found interesting.—

"Victory, Dec. 10, 3 p.m.
"My dear Sir Sidney,—You must burn every French ship you possibly can, and consult the governor the proper hour of doing it, on account of the bringing off the troops.

"Very faithfully yours, HOOD."

"December 18, 6 p.m.
"My dear Sir Sidney.—I am sorry you are so apprehensive of difficulty in the service you volunteered for. It must be undertaken, and if it does not succeed to my wishes, it will very probably facilitate the getting off the governor and the troops in

safety, which is an object; the conflagration may be advantageous to us—no enterprise of war is void of danger and difficulty—both must be submitted to.

"Ever faithfully yours, HOOD."

Sir Sidney Smith was next employed in the Diamond frigate in clearing the Channel of French cruisers and privateers. This led to his capture while reconnoitering the enemy's strength in the port of Havre,—to his imprisonment in Paris,—to his escape not long after,—and to his subsequent appointment to the command of the Tigre and the office of Plenipotentiary to the Ottoman Porte. His noble defence of St. Jean d'Acre at this time forms the leading achievement of his life,—and is as well-known as the siege of Gibraltar or the defence of Jellalabad. For this important service he received a pension of 1,000*l.* a-year and the thanks of Parliament. All subsequent attempts to find proper employment for his skill and activity were wholly ineffectual; and the history of his life after the defence of St. Jean d'Acre is confined to petty appointments and the vexations which attend a gallant man's heart panting for the employment which it cannot find. He was present at the battles of Aboukir and Waterloo; and after the conclusion of the war retired to Paris,—where he died on the 26th of May 1840, an Admiral of the Red and a G.C.B. He was buried in the cemetery of Pere la Chaise; where his grave is marked by a cenotaph which tells in English verse (and bad verse too) that the hero of St. Jean d'Acre lies beneath.

Of his services at Waterloo Sir Sidney has left the following record.—

"I stemmed the torrent of the disabled and *griers* in the best way I could; was now and then jammed among broken waggons by a *drove* of disarmed Napoleonist janissaries; and finally reached the Duke of Wellington's person, and rode in with him from St. Jean to Waterloo; thus, though I was not allowed to have any of the fun, not to be one too many (*vulgo*, a fifth wheel in a coach,) I had the heartfelt gratification of being the first Englishman, that was not in the battle, who shook hands with him before he got off his horse, and of drinking his health at his table; a supper I shall no more forget than I can the dinner at Neuilly, when Fouché came out to arrange the quiet entry into Paris *without more bloodshed*; or the banquet the Duke considerably and kindly gave to the Knights of the Bath, when I received at his hands the second rank of the order of the Bath; the fees of which, by-the-bye, I hope my country will be pleased to pay, for I have not wherewithal."

When the Duke of Wellington became prime-minister, Sir Sidney wrote and submitted his claims for what was still due to him, and for some further recognition of his services. The Duke's reply is an eminent example of that writing to the point, and to the point only, for which he has since been so often celebrated.—

"Cheltenham, August 29, 1828.

"Dear Sir,—I have the honour of receiving your letter of the 28th instant, and I assure you that nothing could give me greater satisfaction than to have it in my power to forward your views, or to improve your situation in life. I am convinced you will see that it is difficult, if not impossible, for me, entering into office in January 1825 (my predecessors under whose directions your services and others, such as yours, were performed, being either dead or disabled from conveying their sentiments upon those services) to find means for his Majesty to reward them all, as I am willing to admit they deserve to be rewarded. The question which naturally occurs is, why did not Mr. Pitt, Lord Melville, Mr. Percival, Lord Liverpool, or Mr. Canning, under whom these services were performed, and who had a knowledge of all the circumstances of the cases, respectively reward these services? The answer is, they have rewarded them, but inadequately, and thus the question occurs again,—why did they not provide adequately for that for which it was their duty to provide, if the claim really existed, as it

appears it did? These are not questions sought for in order to defeat a claim, they naturally occur, and if I did not consider them, they must be brought to my recollection by those who must be consulted and must decide upon these subjects. Under these circumstances, and as I really have no means at my disposition of rewarding such services, I feel great objections to recur back to transactions, however honourable and meritorious, which occurred many years ago, and which ought, and indeed must have been considered by my predecessors in office. In respect to the employment of you in your profession, in the manner pointed out in your letter, it is a subject with which I have no more to do than I have with the employment of an officer in the navy of the king of France. I don't think either that, considering the nature and state of the diplomatic service in this country, I ought to do otherwise than decline to recommend to Lord Aberdeen that you should be employed in that branch of the service. I really feel most sensibly for your situation, and most particularly because I have no means of relieving you. I have the honour to be &c. (Signed) WELLINGTON."

After giving a characteristic letter of one hero, let us conclude with a characteristic anecdote of another.—

"Sir Sidney's despatch, announcing the raising of the siege of Acre, was forwarded to Lord Nelson in one of the Tigre's prizes, a gun-boat under Mr. James Boxer, a midshipman, (who recently died a post-captain,) and who told the story of his reception to Captain Sidney Smith. He found Lord Nelson at Palermo, and delivered his despatch. Lord Nelson, seated him at breakfast next to himself; then read the despatch aloud to the company, among whom was Lady Hamilton, with the utmost delight. He then desired Mr. Boxer to give them some account of Sir Sidney's proceedings. On rising from table, his lordship said, 'Give your name in to the secretary's office; they are making out your commission to be lieutenant.' Here the young gentleman put on a woeful countenance, stammering out, that he had not passed his examination. Lord Nelson then said, write to me as soon as you have passed, and lose no time. Soon after this the youngest passed, and wrote to Lord Nelson as he was desired, who immediately sent him a lieutenant's commission to one of the ships under Sir Sidney's command."

With this extract we must conclude. Considering how popular a name Sir Sidney Smith's long was in England,—the materials for a biography of the hero are calculated to excite disappointment.

The History and Object of Jewellery. By John Jones. Orr & Co.

It treated in due form and order here is a subject which would afford scope for the voluminous labours of a James in place of such a curt book as Mr. John Jones has devoted to it. To indicate a few of the obvious lights in which it might be set:—There is the Currency Question; with all its manifold ramifications and civilizations since the primitive days when Peace could be ratified by the present of a "great balas ruby" and a famine stayed by a loan upon a carcanet! Then, the History of Bribery, largely embracing the philosophy of Political Conscience, would offer not a few richly instructive chapters. Subservient to these in moral importance would come the chronicle of such showy matters as Royal Progresses, Princely Bridals, &c., &c.,—in which crowns, sceptres, and necklaces have always played brilliant parts. Nor should the historian overlook the employment of jewels in Medicine and in Magic:—the last (by poetical licence) bringing him within the domain of Beauty's sieges, "stratagems and spoils." In short, it would not require the assumptions or exaggerations of a Munchausen to prove that the great world (no inconsiderable portion of "the great globe itself") would have gone on till the present time tamely and lamely, without Jewellery!

Here we have few of the above topics even touched upon. But Mr. John Jones manages to set many "sparks" of information and entertainment within the compass of his three-score and ten pages. First: the ignorant wearer of rings, "owches," and bracelets may learn that "jewellery derives its name from the Hindoostanee '*jouhur*,' a gem—and is of Oriental origin." So that Hunt and Roskell,—Kitching and Abud,—M. Herz, with his ingenious Egyptian counterfeits,—the curiosity merchant, Herr Pikler (?), of Fürth, near Nuremberg,—&c., &c., all take style and title from "an allegory on the banks of the Nile." We read, further, that the Egyptian scarabæi and other ornaments in gold and blue earthenware were "emblems of spiritual principles or charms against evil:—that the brooch of Pharaoh's daughter was no trifle; the head-tire of the wife of Sesostris not an affair of mere chance and fantasy.—

"The sphynx, being the compound of human intelligence and the lion's strength, was the emblem of royalty, it is presumed that its use was limited to the royal jewels. Lions' heads were objects of honour, for the flood of the Nile was at the full when the sun was in Leo. * * The signs of the zodiac, referring to the agricultural events of the year, formed a collection of popular symbols. A star would suggest astronomical movements, and is the leading idea in the formation of almost all flowers: Cowley calls them 'stars of the earth': precious stones were generally disposed into stars. If ornamental form, for its own sake, were at all admired, it was chiefly in geometric figures, a taste cultivated by the physical necessities of the country; yet, even here, the symbolic association was not forgotten; the square for strength, the circle for eternity, and so forth."

Who knows, then, to give a moment's play to fanciful speculation, of how many things besides their mere gold and precious stones the Israelites, when breaking from their captivity, may have spoiled the Egyptians!

The Greeks (still to bear company with Mr. Jones) showed less wealth and less mysticism than the Egyptians in the matter of gold and precious stones, but more skill. The Artist rose as the Priest waned on the horizon of the jeweller's shop. Engraved rings, in which the device or posy counted for as much as the ornament, "came up:—and hence the Jewel, by becoming a document and a token, gained a new and precious significance.—

"It is through an engraving on an emerald that we have the likeness of the founder of our religion; it was taken by command of Tiberius Caesar, and became deposited in the treasury of Constantinople, whence it was given by the Emperor of the Turks to Pope Innocent 8th as a ransom for his brother, then a prisoner to the Christians. Not only have gem engravings been useful in determining facts of history or biography, but they have formed the school in which modern genius has been trained. Raphael is known to have been indebted to them for many graces of figure and expression which animate his productions. * * The oval form, as being that which bounds the range of vision, was used as the field on which their engravings were cut."

Under the Romans, brute jewels, so to speak, returned to favour—being used by them, it would seem, more sensually and in more lavish profusion than they had been by Egyptian or Greek. The wanton disrespect of everything but their nominal value reached its acme in Cleopatra's far-famed draught. From the origin of Antony's "wringing queen" one might have expected greater reverence for her trinkets; but as a prosaic writer of the *Fordece* school once expressed himself with regard to her,—"Who, after all, went such lengths as she?" We leave Mr. Jones to tell what use the Saracens and the Goth made of the *Casket* of precious stones: also, how these were restored to something like their old mystical importance in the early

days of the Christian Church—when significance and symbol played so large a part in its influences over popular imagination. In this, as in many other matters, the traditions of the East were more strictly retained than it would at all suit the Mediævalists to allow.—

"The following are some of the virtues attributed to stones, as borrowed from a Persian manuscript, translated by Raja Kalikishen, in the *East Indian Magazine*, in which the similarity between the virtues of the stones, and the ideas which they originally represented, will even now be traced.—

"Diamond preserves from lightning, cures madness and vain fears.

"Ruby purifies the blood, quenches thirst, dispels melancholy, insures honour and competence.

"The Emerald averts bad dreams, gives courage, cures palsy.

"The Turquoise, in its Persian name, 'Aber Is'hagi, 'Father of Isaac,' contains reference to a mental principle, particularly valuable, since at Nishapur, in Khorasan, is the only known turquoise mine in the world. It brightens the eyes, and is a remedy for the bites of venomous animals.

"And in other traditions it is maintained, that—

"Pearls refresh the spirits and obviate passions.

"Sapphire preserves from enchantments.

"Chrysoprase will make one out of love with gold.

"Agates preserve from tempests.

"Amethyst prevents inebriation.

"Corals change colour with the mind of the wearer."

Coming nearer our own times, the history of Jewellery expands over a surface so wide, that to touch a point in one quarter or mention a fact in another would serve us little better than it would serve our musical critic to cite an insulated note from Meyerbeer's scores by way of illustrating the master's style. Mr. Jones rambles pleasantly from the Anglo-Saxon period to the times of the Medici,—thence, by way of Sir Paul Pindar's "pendant diamond cut fau-tive" purchased by King Charles the Martyr, to the treasury of Messrs. Rundell & Bridge on Ludgate-hill, the splendour of which has thrown so many a country visitor into strange confusion,—making him feel himself a *Cogia Hassan redivivus* in a valley of diamonds, though all the while within hearing of Bow Bell!—In short, this little book is full of suggestions and glimpses of information: and we have trifled with it fantastically rather than characterized it succinctly, for the purpose of convincing any one capable of treating the subject anecdotically and in a larger compass how pleasant a companion to the general reader (not liable, it must be premised, to covetous hankerings after the Monte Christo emerald or the Pigot diamond,) a 'History of Jewellery' might be made.

The Stars and the Earth; or, Thoughts upon Space, Time, and Eternity. Part II. Bail-lière.

A great thought is

A thing of beauty and a joy for ever;
Its loveliness increases,—it will never
Pass into nothingness;—

but performing its holy mission of purifying and exalting intellectual man, it will endure even longer than the language in which it was expressed. Such thoughts are not common in the present age. Men are content with a more level train of thinking: in fact, their thoughts are rather of the earth than of the stars—of the realities of every-day life than of the idealities in which the poet-philosopher delights when, connecting material phenomena with immaterial influences, he seeks to learn something of the springs that move the great machine of which he is himself a part.

The author of the above 'Thoughts'—the first part of which we noticed at the time of its publication [No. 991]—is in the situation of

Sheridan's friend; "He thinks that he thinks,"—and he is desirous that the world should be of the same opinion.

In the first part, as our readers will remember, the idea, which Mr. Babbage made the most of in his 'Ninth Bridgewater Treatise,' that a wave of vibration—"the sigh of a drowning slave"—is repeated through all eternity, was applied to the radiations of light from external objects; which, progressing in constant undulation, were supposed to pass from star to star, impressing upon each the picture of its material source,—and thus to be perpetuating through eternity and space every action on which the sunlight fell. There are manifestly several absurdities in this;—and the idea that by this physical means the Infinite was enabled to see and embrace at one view all the actions of man through all time, so far from conveying, as the author imagined, any exalted notion of the Deity, leads the mind to shadow out a finite being of no very high order of intelligence.

This second part "is intended still further to illustrate these ideas in the same way, and to deliver to the public in a comprehensive form those truths and ideas which have hitherto been the exclusive property of professed philosophers." Such is the author's statement. Now, without following him through the mazes of his argument, it will be sufficient to state that the position which he desires to maintain is, that before we can comprehend the idea of a single Creator we must endeavour to reach in mental perception so far into space as to conceive the *universe* a mere point "which has no parts,"—and to look forward into eternity so remotely that time may be regarded as *nothing*. "*Time is only the rhythm of the world's history.*" "A manifold world and a single Creator" are called contradictions; and, says the author, "of the three ways in which we thought to solve the contradiction, we entered upon that one which denied the existence of the multiplicity in the world, and by which it can be supposed that the world is really single and indivisible, and that it is by the human mind and its limited mode of comprehension divided into a multiplicity of phenomena." That the multiplicity of phenomena presented to us in organic and inorganic creation are, owing to our finite comprehensions, referred to different causes—they being in all probability but modified manifestations of some universal principle—cannot be denied. That as we advance in intelligence by the acquisition of knowledge the apparent complexity of the cosmical machinery will become more simple to our perceptions, most men will admit. That the highest intelligence surveys an entire unity requires no argument,—since in all ages of the world man's conception of a God has constantly involved this truth.

The author of the 'Thoughts' views the question differently from this,—as the following quotation will show.—

"There is an optical apparatus, known to all of us under the name of a magic lantern. It is constructed in the following manner:—A picture, painted upon glass with transparent colours, is thrown upon a lens which has the property of refracting all the rays incident upon its surface, and of concentrating them to a single point called the focus. Through this point the refracted rays continue their course onwards, and diverge from one another as much as they previously converged. They form, therefore, beyond the focus a cone of rays with the apex at the focus, and which, at any distance from the apex, forms an inverted image of the picture which was originally thrown upon the lens,—as can be proved by directing the cone of rays upon the wall, when the reversed picture is seen larger in proportion to the distance of the focus from the wall. If the necessary lenses were ground with perfect optical and mathematical

accuracy, and if the position of the glasses was also strictly perfect, and the wall completely smooth, upon approaching the magic lantern so near that the focus falls upon the wall, the light would be seen as a single distinct bright point. In this point, the entire surface of the picture is concentrated; and from it the picture spreads out again upon the wall, if the apparatus is moved to a greater distance. Now this point contains the many-coloured surface of the picture completely, with all the parts which actually compose it, and with the form and colour of every single figure; and the whole picture is really and truly in this single point, for here it has been concentrated by the refraction of the rays."

Now, in this instance, owing to the imperfection of human vision—man not having "a microscopic eye"—the completeness of the picture is lost; and in the same manner as we stand on this earth at night and look into the heavens, we see a point of light—a star. In the point of light on the wall and in the glittering orb we know a multiplicity of objects are hidden which our humble powers prevent us from discovering; and yet this very position, proving weakness and imperfection, is adduced to lead the mind to the contemplation of Infinite Perfection. It is the characteristic of high intelligence that every phenomenon is distinctly observed,—and that at the same time as it perceives the details in all their minuteness it can embrace them in their utmost generality. It can see in the point of lenticular light the colours and the forms of each transmitted ray,—and it can comprehend the law which blends them into one. It can in the "silver shining star," to us a mere point in space, discover "a manifold world" full of wonderful organizations redolent of life and beauty, moved by machinery as varied in its applications as are the phenomena which result from its influences,—the prime mover, the secondary cause, being a simple universal principle or power.

The aim of the author of 'The Stars and the Earth' is good,—his intentions are of a noble character; but we conceive that he teaches us merely the conditions of a mind of ordinary power, untrained in speculations of a high order and unaccustomed to the logical severity which a strict induction requires, attempting a flight to which its powers are unequal. Pretending to a system of close reasoning founded upon physical truths, and written in a clear and elegant style,—these essays have obtained many readers, and are, we fear, likely to produce an effect contrary to the desires of the author. Instead of a new or great thought, we can discover only great fallacies. Instead of advancing our ideas of the greatness and grandeur of the Creator, the tendency of these 'Thoughts' is, to diminish our confidence in the powers of our mind,—to degrade the intellectual Gulliver to a petty Lilliputian,—and, far from assisting us in our conceptions of Infinite Greatness and Power, to bewilder us in a labyrinth of metaphysical doubts and difficulties.

Let us repeat:—the central sun, with all the planetary systems revolving in undeviating order and in mutual dependence upon each other—our own system, with its solar centre pouring forth its influences, light, heat, chemical power, and probably other forces which quicken the manifold forms of life and regulate the numerous states of inorganic matter, not merely on the earth, but in every planet and each attendant star,—all prove that a variety infinitely beyond our knowledge exists around us; and so far from its being necessary, in order "completely to understand the universe to be the work of a single Creator," that we should become ephemera and dwarf our great and glorious world to an atom,—let us rather strive to embrace the varied whole in all its wonderful beauty and vastness, with its mysterious all-

pervading influences, showing a unity of operation and leading the mind to a dim perception of the oneness of the universe, which it is beyond the power of finite intelligence to comprehend; and then, taking our stand on the highest point of human knowledge, and exerting the keenest mental vision to which man may attain, let us survey the infinite Unknown beyond us,—and ask ourselves "Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge?"

The Reformation in Europe. By Cesare Cantù. Translated by Fortunato Prandi. Vol. I. Newby.

WHAT an interesting volume might be written on the history of books and on the influence for good or evil of literary men! A poor Richmond scholar named Wickliffe published treatises that made John Huss the reformer of Bohemia—the writings of Huss struck out of the heart of Luther the first sparks of the Reformation—the theses of Luther aroused the German heart; his letters and sermons "fulminated over" Europe, and carried some of the light and principles of the Reformation even into the Romish Church. Catholicism and Protestantism—the Old World and the New—are different from what they would have been if these, or such, men had never lived and had never written.

The doctrines and position of these eminent reformers were by no means identical. Wickliffe's creed was Protestant, and what would now be called evangelistic. The creed of Huss was Protestant and politically liberal, though he lived in the bosom of the Romish Church. Luther combined the creeds of both Reformers. He began by condemning the abuses of the Church,—declared against the supremacy of the Pope,—and at length, no longer confined to negations, asserted the supremacy of Scripture and the grand doctrine of Justification by Faith. Two out of the three, therefore, wrote in the church and while nominally subject to her authority. Indeed, it was in the church that all the peculiar doctrines of the Reformation found at first their ablest advocates. The authority of Scripture, the independency of temporal princes, the denial of the doctrine of indulgence, were all taught (as Dr. Ulmann has shown) by men who lived and died in the church itself. It was her disregard of their successive remonstrances that constrained many sober thinkers of that day to conclude that inward renovation was impossible without organic disruption.

The spirit of reform which resided in the church before the days of Luther remains, and has gathered strength from the Reformation. The work of M. Cantù is one proof of this. He gives the history of reform in the Church of Rome, and frankly admits that it was required. "The corruption was profound, and a secular spirit predominated." He speculates on the consequences that might have followed from changes effected "in love and not in hatred,"—repudiates all persecution as worse than useless, creating faith in the reality of the principles it seeks to destroy,—condemns the Inquisition as a clumsy confession of weakness,—pleads for liberty,—and describes in strong colours the revival in the church herself of morality and learning. We are too much gratified by the admissions which these facts involve, and the homage that such admissions pay to principles which have been supposed, to be those of Protestantism exclusively, to ask whether they are consistent with Catholicism, or whether Catholicism is always consistent with itself. Self-complacent Protestantism is not in a position to cast the first stone.

It is in tracing the advance of such princi-

ples in the Romish Church that the chief value of M. Cantù's work consists. With all his intended liberality, he is hardly inferior in bad eminence to the most virulent of Protestant writers in misrepresenting the opinions of his opponents. We have a strong suspicion that no Lutheran will accept his definition of Luther's doctrines. His version of the Confession of Augsburg and of the decisions of the Synod of Dort is such as we believe neither Luther nor Gomar would have signed. The peculiar distinctions that existed between the various sections of the Reformers are set forth in outrageous relief. It is not within our province to discuss these points. We notice them only to express our regret. It is worse than needless to condemn opinions which no one defends, and then to ascribe them to an adversary. Such a course wastes the time of the world, and draws unnecessarily upon a stock of forbearance already sufficiently drained. It provokes retaliation. It creates even among the well-intentioned a perverse spirit of correction which sends forth as authentic statements equally unfounded. Extremes in such matters create one another;—and while they are being adjusted, truth and charity retrograde or stand still.

An illustration or two of these remarks will explain our meaning:—"Denying the infallibility of the Pope, Luther claimed it for himself." . . . "Others affirm that Luther was honest;—nevertheless his doctrine of Justification subverts all morality and all positive obligation to live virtuously." . . . "Luther opposed science as useless, philosophy as diabolical, and literature as demoralizing." . . . "He cursed liberty of reason and conscience, whenever it was opposed to his opinion—invoking chains and swords against all dissenters." No candid man pretends to defend all that Luther wrote,—or maintains that all he did was consistent with the general tendency of his writings. He was a man of strong passions, lived in times of intense excitement, and did not see truth at once in all its lustre and extent. But to maintain that Martin Luther claimed infallibility,—that his doctrine subverts all positive obligation to virtue, when he rests that obligation on commands which he holds to be eternally binding,—that the man who defended everywhere the cause of liberal education, and urged the formation throughout Germany of public libraries, opposed literature as diabolical—are assertions which have all the annoyance of paradox without its truth. In the treatment of his opponents he was not always consistent; but the spirit of his writings is contained in his celebrated letter to the Elector Frederick, in which he entreated him "not to interfere" with false teachers, "but let mind conflict with mind and the struggle be confined to them."

We speak freely upon this point. To attribute to an opponent opinions or conclusions which he explicitly disowns is a course which, whether adopted by Catholic or Protestant, should be rebuked by conscientious men of both sides. The interests of a party can gain but little by it, and the interests of truth still less. We have had occasion to condemn some Protestant histories for this fault,—and are constrained, with regret, to include M. Cantù's History in the censure.—Making all due allowance for it, however, we can recommend his work to all who would find pleasure in tracing the progress of liberal views even among those who profess to be in their faith and discipline unchangeable. The inconsistencies of the Reformers and the admissions of their opponents are both consolatory, though in different ways, to those who amid the extravagancies of their contemporaries are sometimes tempted to despair

of the progress of human reason and of the triumph of truth.

The state of the world immediately before the Reformation has an accurate description in the following paragraph.—

"At the commencement of the sixteenth century chivalrous sentiments had lost their influence and reason had not yet gained the ascendant. Manners, arts, literature, and politics were tainted with paganism. The universal degradation of society rendered a fundamental change indispensable. On a former occasion the world had been rescued from corruption by the power of Gregory VII., and by the preaching and example of St. Francis and St. Dominic, but now times were changed. . . . Meanwhile inventions multiplied, new ideas created new wants, and education was sought from other sources than Christianity. The study of the Roman law rendered popular the vigorous government of the ancients, and threw discredit on existing institutions and national privileges. Admiration for the beautiful of classical ages replaced the appreciation of the good of modern times. New social institutions had transferred supreme power to lay governors. Science had escaped from the sanctuary; the Fine Arts found nourishment otherwise than from devotion; learning was too widely diffused to be confined to one centre; doubt succeeded to belief, and faith was undermined by the general corruption of morals. . . . The increasing rigour of the Inquisition bore witness to its decay. Spiritual dominion can only repose on the universal consent of the intellect; and the necessity for recurrence to physical force proclaimed the decline of power. This might have passed unobserved in a time of great ignorance; but now learning was diffused, manners were refined, and doubt was introduced. Great changes generally arise in the spirits of thoughtful men, wherein opinions are created which afterwards become universal. Philosophy, which the doctors had sought to combine with the declining and tottering religion, was the subject of disputes arising from the study of Roman jurisprudence and oriental literature; which on the one side led to theurgy, and on the other to rash interpretations of the Divine writings. On the other hand, literature was enthusiastically cultivated, and an epigram or pamphlet in the universal language of the scholars flew from one end of Europe to the other. The higher clergy amid their secular pursuits thought not of acquiring a knowledge of that faith which it was their office to defend and maintain immaculate; and for the most part their inferiors followed the example. The monasteries, hitherto centres of active thought and of the fine arts, had fallen into the torpor of old age and the indolence of luxury. The multitudes of friars occupied formerly in transcribing manuscripts were reduced to idleness by the invention of printing, and applied themselves to questions of little ingenuity and much cavil, while the revival of literature discouraged the senseless scholastic ravings, that had been substituted for solid science."

Then follows the history of the Reformation in Germany under Luther,—and in Switzerland under Zuingli and Calvin.

The history of the Council of Trent and of the Catholic reaction throughout Europe follows. The general result is described in language remarkably clear and striking; though occasionally interrupted by quiet half-sarcastic comments on the sincerity of the actors and the wisdom of the measures adopted by them.—

"The reformation of morals within the pale of the Catholic Church was much more extensive than could have been expected in such times of agitation, when the pride of not yielding to those who dissented was the cause of constant opposition to any improvement. The old idolatry of the classics gave way to true religious feeling in the arts, literature, and social intercourse. Numerous provincial Councils were held for the purpose of extirpating the remains of superstition and indecency; and from time to time religious meetings were held among the people, so that the purity of Apostolic times appeared about to be restored in the world. St. Charles Borromeo renewed in his ritual the penitentiary forms of the early ages. Gian Francesco Bonomo, Bishop of Vercelli, having been appointed to make a visitation of the diocese of Como, after many acts of rigour,

admonished the Bishop not to make use of costly household furniture, and above all not to employ any vessels or candlesticks of silver, as with the value of such things many poor might be maintained. . . . Both the court and the city of Rome assumed an ecclesiastical and orderly aspect. Residence was strictly enforced on bishops and incumbents. The abuse of conferring abbacies, colleges, and bishoprics upon laymen, or even military men, 'who spoke of "my canons, my friars" just as they would of their servants or their horses,' was entirely done away with. Nepotism fell into discredit, and when in the subsequent century it was revived, the Pope's nephews were no longer invested with power, but merely with wealth and rank. . . . Moreover the diffusion of knowledge was eagerly promoted, and more skillfully directed. During the decline of religious studies, the Jesuits, inflamed by the spirit of reformed Catholicism, turned their attention to education. They first established several colleges at Vienna, then at Cologne and Ingoldstadt, whence they spread over Austria, along the Rhine, the Main, and at Munich, with the intention of rendering the Catholic universities equal to the Protestant. They were not philosophical thinkers, nor did they discover any new truths; but they were obliging, affable, disinterested, and they mutually assisted each other. In this novel invasion of the Roman into the German element, the Protestant theologians, quarrelling among themselves and disagreeing in their doctrines, gave way to men who were inferior to themselves, but who had the advantage of being united, and of presenting a system of belief thoroughly complete and refined in all its parts. They at the same time established schools for the poor, and preached with such admirable effect as to produce enthusiastic devotion in their hearers."

The work contains several inaccuracies; which become the more serious from the very brevity of the narrative. Lengthened description would often suggest inquiry, and inquiry might end in corrections: but here the suggestion of inquiry is hopeless unless the reader begin an independent course of study on the events to which the history refers. The author speaks for example of the influence, in preparing the way for the Reformation, of what Erasmus "utters against the clergy in his Greek Bible of 1518." This refers, no doubt, to the New Testament with annotations which Erasmus published in that year.—Among other preparatory influences, the author speaks of the Colloquies of the same writer:—these were written after the Reformation had begun, and contain internal evidence of the influence on Erasmus of the writings of Luther.—The 'Epistolæ Obscurorum Virorum,' of which three series were published—the last after a considerable interval—are spoken of as one work, and are ascribed without hesitation to one writer, Ulrich of Hutten. They were, no doubt, written in part by him,—but only in part. Crotianus wrote several of the letters; and it would be more just to say, that they were the productions of Ulrich and other witty, sarcastic men of letters of that day.

To the class of inaccuracies, too, we are disposed to assign a hint of M. Cantù's, that Luther's opposition to Tetzel was excited by jealousy for his own order,—the Dominicans (to whom Tetzel belonged) having the sole traffic at that time of indulgences. The authority for this suspicion is a single expression of Paul Sarpi's, in his 'History of the Council of Trent';—and, though repeated by Mr. Hume, the charge is now given up by all parties as unjust. Dr. Maclaine has given a summary of the whole case in a note to Mosheim. The correction is important, because the only hope for truth is that each generation of writers start from the points to which the investigations of their predecessors have carried them.

The Translator's name and labours are already favourably known to English readers. The present work is generally idiomatic and

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perspicuous, though occasionally disfigured by inaccurate expressions. These, however, are so rare, and so easily corrected, that we notice them not so much to censure as to express surprise that they should have been allowed to detract from the merit of what is in other respects as a translation so excellent.

The Almanacs for 1848.

THE time will come when the Almanacs will be cited with unmixed satisfaction as a proof of the advances which the age has made in science, taste, and learning; but up to this day we have still something to lament—something to show that fools have not failed out of the land, nor those who make money by them. We may couple together, as proofs, *Raphael's Prophetic Messenger*, published by Mr. Wright of Paternoster Row, and *Francis Moore's Almanac*, published by the Stationers' Company.

If there be any who think that astrology has subsided into a mere matter of harmless amusement, we tell them they are mistaken. Ask the second-hand booksellers if works on astrology and magic do not keep up their prices, and meet with a rapid sale:—ask the auctioneers the same question. There are shops in London which deal in nothing but this pernicious diet. When the Stationers' Company, years ago, tried to leave out the column of Moore's Almanac which contains the parts of the human body acted on by the planets for each day, the copies were returned on their hands from all parts of the country. This, which should have convinced them that they were doing wrong in publishing such a work, was their reason for reinstating the superstitious and indecent column. They were obliged to do it, they said. If they had not done it they would have lost money—money—money! A few years ago there were in this same Moore's Almanac warnings against irreligion mixed up with praises of astrology in such manner as to show that the editor meant to do all he could—short of making the assertion in terms—to assert that unbelief in astrology is infidelity.

Let us look into the nonsense for the coming year. "We are now," says the oracle, "entering upon the year 1848, during which we shall see Old Time progressively mowing down the superstitions and absurdities of early times." If the Stationers' Company mean by this that they are about gradually to abandon their annual piece of profanity, we shall only say that we should prefer seeing them go more rapidly to work. We use the word *profanity* advisedly. Surely, a work in which God and his providence, religion and its obligations, are mixed up with prophecies drawn from the positions of Jupiter and Mars should be considered profane in the orthodoxy of a city company! Take the following quotation:—"Peace and the acquisition of knowledge are far more congenial to the dispensations of Providence than the stupid turmoils of war and bloodshed; by the former we approach nearer to HIM who gave us existence; by the latter, to him of the infernal regions. It is wonderful how rapidly a country advances in knowledge during peace! Venus at this time traversing the ascendant of Ireland, and also in friendly quadrature with Jupiter, leads me to hope that that most distressed island is surmounting its difficulties."—Has the Stationers' Company no better reliance for Ireland than "Venus in friendly quadrature with Jupiter"—nothing more religious—more in accordance with its own professions—more likely to be suggested by what immediately precedes? Have the city companies their chaplains? If so, we should like to know what clergyman has the honour of saying grace at the feasts of the Stationers—and to whom he offers his thanks!

One more of these choice specimens:—"The great Founder of Christianity himself says 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.'—Matt. v. 9. Old Saturn seems now inclined to oppose Venus in her operations: and, therefore, I shall not wonder if we hear of some lady in high life greatly annoyed by her unfaithful lover."—And in another place, the clergy are in one and the same paragraph consecutively threatened with innovations upon their revenues, on the authority of a trine of Uranus and Jupiter,—and with God's vengeance if they care more for the fleece than the flock, on the authority of the Prophet Ezekiel.

We would fain hope that next year we may have a better account to give. Let the Stationers' Company—the members of which, no doubt, are individually respectable men—leave such disgraceful means of making money as this to Raphael:—who undertakes also, it should be mentioned, to publish the fulfilment of his prophecies. Thus, having said for this November that the aspects denoted the death of a Ruler, he informs us that the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel died in—consequence, we were going to say, we mean—confirmation. If it were not for the countenance afforded by the Stationers—whom many ignorant almanac readers believe to be a literary body—Raphael and his compeers would go down faster than they are likely to do. How much public exposure can effect in that direction we are determined to try.

It is a great satisfaction to turn from the revolting contents of Moore and Raphael to those of the *British Almanac*—by which the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge twenty years ago invaded established imbecility. There is no need to describe so well-known a periodical:—but we may notice that for the last year or two a useful addition has been made at the end of each volume—consisting of a synopsis of the year to follow next—for the information of those who towards the end of the year have occasion to anticipate. Thus, in the number for 1848 are given for 1849 each first of the month, each Sunday, the feasts, and the new and full moons. We recommend this plan for adoption in all almanacs. Many business years begin in October and November, before the almanacs appear—and many arrangements must then be made for the coming year. The *Companion* is, as usual, interesting. Coinage, School of Design, Railways, Electric Telegraph, Health of Towns, Friendly Societies, Funds, Baths and Wash-houses, besides the usual statistics, form a good selection of current topics.

We have before us Pawsey's *Ladies' Almanac*—a pocket book, with its poems and conundrums; an unpretending work—we hope. Also Oliver and Boyd's *Threepenny Almanac* for Scotland—useful and business-like. Next comes the *Congregational Calendar*—the organ of the congregational dissenters; and the *Horticultural Almanac*—more flowery in contents than style, but very useful for the gardener's reference. Of sheets, we have Maynard's *Desk Almanac*—a useful pennyworth; the *Booksellers' Almanac*—with an engraving of their new institution, the Provident Retreat; and the *Patent Journal Almanac*—bordered with engravings of recently patented improvements.

The ingenuity of the age is exerted in trying what kind of extraneous novelty can be fastened upon the days of the month and the times of full moon. We have not yet seen a sheet almanac with a romance or a drama round the border:—but we are not without hope. We shall continue our list, on the chance of that or any other piece of originality which may turn

up to set off the Calendar which is the one thing common to them all.

The Prose Writers of America. By R. W. Griswold.

[Second Notice.]

IN returning to this work we must become more miscellaneous in our references than we have hitherto been. Rather taking our matter at random than attempting selection, we come to the name of Richard Henry Wilde, and some record of his labours on the subject of Italian literature. Mr. Griswold thus speaks of that writer's 'Conjectures and Researches concerning the Love, Madness, and Imprisonment of Torquato Tasso.'—

"Mr. Wilde collected his materials with a patient industry only surpassed by the clear and luminous manner in which he lays the whole evidence before the reader, and by the ingenuity with which he makes his deductions. The whole investigation indeed is conducted with the care and skill of a practised lawyer. The title of the work is perfectly descriptive of its contents; for starting with no theory, assuming nothing, nor seeking to establish any preconceived opinion, Mr. Wilde has been content to bring together all the facts bearing on the points at issue, to indicate very ably all the deductions that may be made from them, and there to leave the reader, fairly in possession of the case, to judge for himself, and form his own opinion. This plan is original and proves the writer's honesty and candour, but most persons would have been better satisfied if he had indicated clearly what he wished to prove, and gone on, step by step, to prove it. By a close comparison of Tasso's writings, especially his sonnets and canzoni, and a searching cross-examination of their hidden meanings, he convinces us that Tasso was really in love with Leonora of Este, and that she was the person to whom he addressed his amatory poems; that this princess granted to him all that virtue should have denied, and that he wrote private pieces of poetry proclaiming the fact, which were stolen by a traitorous friend; that fearing his amour had been revealed to the duke Alphonso, he fled to Sorrento, but his passion for the princess overcoming his fears, returned to Ferrara, where the duke, having been made acquainted with all the circumstances, instead of putting the parties to death and thus blazing the dishonour of his house, attempted to throw discredit upon the whole affair by compelling Tasso to feign madness and lead a dissolute life; that the poet for a time complied with these conditions, but at length escaped to Turin, whence, urged by his extreme passion, he returned, with permission, professing himself cured of his malady, and was ultimately, upon his bursting out into some public paroxysm of rage at the treatment he received from the court, thrown into prison and there detained seven weary years. This is a very meagre outline of what seems to be perfectly established in Mr. Wilde's masterly examination of Tasso's mysterious history. The work contains numerous admirable translations from the Italian, and the style of it throughout is chaste and classical."

The poet Dante likewise received a large share of his attention.—

"Embarrassed with the contradictions in accounts of Dante, he obtained from the Grand Duke of Tuscany permission to examine the secret archives of Florence, for the period in which he lived, and with indefatigable ardour devoted himself to this difficult labour many months, in which he succeeded in discovering many interesting facts, obscurely known, or altogether forgotten, even by the people of Italy. Having learned incidentally one day, in conversation with an artist, that an authentic portrait of this great poet, from the pencil of Giotto, probably still existed in the *Bargello*, (anciently both the prison and the palace of the republic,) on a wall, which by some strange neglect or inadvertence had been covered with whitewash, he set on foot a project for its discovery and restoration, which, after several months, was crowned with complete success. This discovery of a veritable portrait of Dante, in the prime of his days, says Washington Irving, 'produced throughout Italy some such sensation as in England would fol-

low the sudden discovery of a perfectly well authenticated likeness of Shakspeare, with a difference in intensity, proportioned to the superior sensitiveness of the Italians.' It is understood that Mr. Wilde has since finished his life of Dante, but it has not yet been offered to the public. His printed writings on subjects connected with Italian literature, besides the work on Tasso, are an elaborate notice of Petrarch, in the form of a review of Campbell's worthless biography of that poet, and a Letter to Mr. Paulding on Count Alberto's pretended mis. of Tasso. His miscellanies, in several magazines, mostly written during moments of relaxation while he was a member of Congress, or engaged in the business of his profession, are elegant and scholarly, and make us regret that his whole attention has not been given to letters."

The works of James Fenimore Cooper, the American Scott as he is called, are so well known in this country that the slightest allusion to them will be sufficiently understood. Some account, however, of the sources from which he derived his materials for maritime description cannot fail of being welcome. In 1805, Mr. Cooper entered the navy, being then fresh from college; and he was six years afloat,—when he retired from sea-service to indulge in matrimony and authorship. The American periodicals, it seems, regarded Mr. Cooper's earliest works, such as 'Precaution' and 'The Spy,' with coldness:—the latter, notwithstanding, quickly became popular. For 'The Pilot' and 'The Last of the Mohicans' Mr. Griswold claims the praise of originality and nationality. He asks,—

"Where can the model of 'The Pilot' be found? I know of nothing which could have suggested it, but the following fact, which was related to me in a conversation with Mr. Cooper. 'The Pirate' had been published a short time before. Talking with the late Charles Wilkes, of New York,—a man of taste and judgment—our author heard extolled the universal knowledge of Scott, and the sea portions of 'The Pirate' cited as a proof. He laughed at the idea, as most seamen would, and the discussion ended by his promising to write a sea story which could be read by landsmen, while seamen should feel its truth. 'The Pilot' was the fruit of that conversation. It is one of the most remarkable novels of the time, and everywhere obtained instant and high applause."

We are prepared in a work of this kind to find such a writer as Mr. Cooper overrated, and even praised for qualities which we should rather be disposed to censure. Thus, the extreme Americanism of his conduct and opinions during his residence in Europe meets here with an unflinching advocate. A less exclusive spirit, we think, would not only have been more amiable but have exhibited a larger intellectual range. As a novelist Mr. Cooper's failures are nearly as many as his successes:—but it may be worth recording that his later works have derived extra importance in the eyes of his countrymen from their social and political tone.

The biographies before us, though numerous, are deficient in adventure. Their brevity precludes the accumulation of incident; and thus they have less interest than might have been expected. They are sketches, not portraits. There are, however, some events in the life of John Neal which are remarkable. This writer was of Quaker parentage, but of a most warlike disposition. "His mother, though she put him in drab, could by no means instil into him the peaceable notions of which that colour is the sign,—as appeared when he disturbed the silence of a meeting in which there had been no moving of a better spirit by knocking down a young broadbrim who had insulted him." This spirit of insubordination seems to have grown up with him; to have been manifested at home, at school, and in the shop. Neal was for about six years what is called an accountant or salesman in Portland and Portsmouth (U.S.); and after-

wards, at the age of twenty-three, established a wholesale store in Baltimore,—where he failed. Being without money, he looked out for a profession. At first he thought of the law; but found there was in it something to learn. So he chose literature,—in which he thought there was nothing.—

"He would turn author! he had scarcely any education, was ignorant even of the first principles of English grammar, and had never written a line for the press except his advertisements; but nevertheless he determined to be a scholar and a critic, and do what no other person was then able to do in this country, gain a living by literature."

Unpromising as might seem this commencement, Neal was successful. A review on Byron introduced him to the 'Portico' as a regular contributor; and within a month or two we find him regularly editing 'The Baltimore Telegraph.'

"In 1817 he published his first book 'Keep Cool, a Novel written in Hot Weather,' which he himself has described characteristically as 'a foolish fiery thing, with a good deal of nature and originality, and much more nonsense and flummery in it.' About the same time he prepared an Index to Niles' Weekly Register, which made over two hundred and fifty very closely printed imperial octavo pages, and is spoken of by Mr. Niles as 'probably the most laborious work of the kind that ever appeared in any country.' In 1818 he published 'The Battle of Niagara, Goldau the Maniac Harper, and Other Poems,' by 'Jehu O'Cataraet,' and 'Otho, a Tragedy,' and in the following year he assisted Dr. Watkins in writing the History of the American Revolution, which is commonly ascribed to Paul Allen. He had succeeded in supporting himself very handsomely by his literary labours, and was now admitted to the bar, and with flattering prospects entered upon the practice of his profession."

The name of Jehu O'Cataraet, above adopted, was given to Neal by the members of a club to which he belonged; and is said to be characteristic of his "impetuous and scornful temperament."

The brief history which we have sketched indicates a remarkable determination of character and promptitude of action. Such a man was likely to hit hard, if at all he reached the mark he aimed at. His novel of 'Randolph,' published in 1823, comes in excellent illustration. Hurriedly composed, in somewhere about a month, these two volumes made an immense sensation. They contained notices,—

"of the most prominent statesmen, orators, authors, artists and other public characters of the time, who were criticized in it with unhesitating freedom, in a style peculiarly his own, and often with great keenness and discrimination. A sketch of William Pinkney, in which that eminent lawyer had full justice done to his abilities and acquisitions, gave offence to his son, Edward Coate Pinkney, then a midshipman in the navy, and afterwards distinguished as a very graceful and elegant poet. Young Pinkney was a sort of sentimental Quixote, so sudden in quarrel as to be avoided as much as possible by his peace-loving acquaintances, but was so skilful in finding causes of feud, that the most careful of them would not at any time have been surprised by his challenge. Mr. Neal denied that he could be held accountable for the contents of an anonymous and unacknowledged publication, and as he had been for several months writing against the custom of duelling, would probably, for the sake of consistency, have refused under any circumstances to fight. On receiving his answer, Pinkney posted him as a 'craven,' and for a week afterwards walked two hours every day before his office, that he might have ample opportunities of taking satisfaction on his person. But our author, whose courage, or rashness even, appears not to have been doubted, was preparing a different revenge, and soon printed the correspondence, gave a fac-simile of the 'posting,' and turned the whole affair into ridicule, in a postscript to his next new novel. This was 'Errata, or the Works of Will Adams,' completing eight stout volumes in a single year, in addition to his essays in the periodicals,

and his labours in the courts, which are said to have been quite sufficient to have kept on the rack the mind of a common lawyer."

Neal was not a man to stick at trifles. His resolutions were sudden but sure. Two novels of his, 'Logan' and 'Seventy-Six,' having been reprinted in London, he determined at once on visiting England; satisfied that, happen what would, if people gave anything for books here they would not be able to starve him, since he could live upon air and write faster than any man that ever yet lived."

"Mr. Neal arrived in Liverpool in January, 1824. He soon became a contributor to various periodicals, for which he wrote, chiefly under the guise of an Englishman, numerous articles to correct erroneous opinions which prevailed in regard to the social and political condition of the United States. He made his first appearance in Blackwood's Magazine, in Sketches of the Five American Presidents and the Five Candidates for the Presidency, which was followed by numerous other papers in the various gazettes, magazines, and reviews, and by a novel in three volumes entitled Brother Jonathan. Jeremy Bentham heard of him through some of his disciples, who had met him at a club, and invited him to dinner. The philosopher was pleased with his original character, and soon after, at his request, Mr. Neal removed to his house, in Queen's Square, which was his home until the conclusion of his residence in London. 'There,' he says in his biography prefixed to the translation of the Principles of Legislation from the French of Dumont, 'I had a glorious library at my elbow, a fine large comfortable study, warmed by a steam-engine, exercise under ground, society, and retirement, all within my reach. In fact, there I spent the happiest, and I believe the most useful days that I passed at that period of my life.' He left London early in 1827 for Paris, and after travelling a short time in France, returned to the United States."

We shall pursue the life of this remarkable person no further. His literary merits may be readily conceived. Abundance of impulse and fancy, with little care or judgment, distinguish him both as verseman and as proseman. If any author, however, were likely to exhibit national characteristics we should expect them from such a man as Neal. Credit is, accordingly, given him for their possession. He is still living.—"Mr. Neal continues to reside in Portland. His youth was passed in tumult and adventure; and he waits the approach of age in independence and ease,—a model in his relations as a man and as a citizen."

What we have quoted from the volume before us sufficiently indicates its character. We may add a few sentences in conclusion. In Mr. Prescott, the historian of Mexico and Peru, and Mr. Bancroft, that of the United States, the New World has two worthy sons, by whom her literature is promoted in rank. Of her lighter writers, in addition to those already mentioned, Kennedy, Bird, and Ware are names of which the New World is confessedly proud—but not with equal justice. The second is a dramatist as well as a novelist—a *rara avis* in American authorship, and therefore much prized. We believe that this gentleman's tragedies though acted have not been printed. They are 'The Gladiator,' 'Oraloosa,' and 'The Broker of Bogota.' The first was some years ago performed in England, on the occasion of Mr. Forrest's engagement at Drury Lane; when it was far from being successful—or deserving success. We had an opportunity at the time of reading the MS.; and recollect well that though apparently written in blank verse, the author was no craftsman in that form of composition. Neither was he a poet, only "wanting the accomplishment of verse." The fine sense was as much absent as the correct rhythm. The piece, in fact, had no merit but as a melo-drama,—and that of a poor description.

We may catalogue, too, to complete our view over this collection, the names of Osborne, Irving, Longfellow, Hall, Thomas, Mathews, Hawthorne, Willis, W. P. Simms, and Poe, in addition to Bryant and Dana—not to pretermitt the ladies, Mrs. Child, Mrs. Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and Mrs. Kirkland. The following piece of literary history and criticism may be worth recording in this place—though the facts are not new to some of our readers.—

“Mr. Paulding and Mr. Irving commenced so nearly together that it is difficult to say which had precedence in point of time. The marriage of Paulding's sister to an elder brother of Irving led to the acquaintance of the youthful wits, both of whom had already written some trifles for the gazettes, and it was soon after proposed in a gay conversation that they should establish a periodical, in which to lash and amuse the town. When they next met, each had prepared an introductory paper, and as both had some points too good to be sacrificed they were blended into one, Paulding's serving as the basis. They adopted the title of *Salmagundi*, and soon after published a small edition of their first number, little thinking of the extraordinary success which awaited it. Upon the completion of two volumes a disagreement with their publisher suddenly caused a suspension of the work, and the sequel to it was written several years afterward while Irving was abroad exclusively by Paulding. *Salmagundi* entitles its authors to a very high rank among the comic writers. In this miscellany, *The Mirror for Travellers*, John Bull and Brother Jonathan, and his other writings, Mr. Paulding has given almost every sort of facetious and satirical composition. He deals more largely than Irving in the whimsical and the burlesque, and he is wanting in the exquisite refinement which lends such a charm to Geoffrey Crayon's humour. The follies of men are often confirmed, rather than cured by undisguised attacks. Mr. Cooper by honest and sensible commentaries upon a class in our American society, gathered the scattered vulgar into a mob. Paulding, who took greater liberties, was perhaps a more efficient reformer, without startling them by an exhibition of their deformities, or attracting their vexed rage to himself. The motley crowds at our watering places, the ridiculous extravagance and ostentation of the suddenly made rich, the ascendancy of pocket over brain in the affairs of love, and all the fopperies and frolic in our mimic worlds, are described by him in a most diverting manner; while the more serious sins of society are treated with appropriate severity. Besides his occasional coarseness, however, Mr. Paulding has the fault, in common with some others, of labelling his characters, gay, sedate, or cynical, as the case may be, in descriptive names, as if doubtful of their possessing sufficient individuality to be otherwise distinguished. If a hero cannot make himself known in his action and conversation he is not worth bringing upon the boards.”

America has many writers of humour and burlesque; and they are as a class, our readers well know, exceedingly quaint and peculiar. In England we have to translate, as it were, in order to relish them. Such is the case both with Sands and Neal:—but Clarke and Sanderson may be favourably quoted as exceptions. So numerous, however, are the comic and satirical writers that an account of them within reasonable limits is impossible.—The essayists of America are chiefly philosophical; the best and most influential being of the transcendental school—the next best their immediate opponents. A class of writers has been created by the national practice of delivering addresses on festival occasions and before societies in the United States by scholars, jurists and statesmen. These men contribute an important and significant body of literature; and among them the names of Franklin, Channing, Everett, and Emerson are distinguished. The critics are, of course, a numerous class:—and the reader will find a sufficient account of them in Mr. Griswold's volume.

MEDICAL WORKS.

On the Inhalation of the Vapour of Ether. By John Snow, M.D.—*Account of a new Anæsthetic Agent.* By J. G. Simpson, M.D.—*Practical Remarks on the Inhalation of Ether.* By W. P. Brookes, M.D.—As we have always been opposed to everything in medicine that has borne upon its face the character of quackery and pretension, so have we ever been solicitous to make known to our readers those real benefits which the healing art from time to time confers on humanity. The application of ether to the production of a state of insensibility, in which surgical operations might be performed without pain, was brought forward on such good evidence of its value that without hesitation we predicted for it complete success. The result has exceeded our utmost anticipations. Although some medical men still hold out, refusing to mitigate pain by this agent, it is now very generally employed,—and with the most perfect success. Even in a department of practical medicine wherein the value of the ether was somewhat problematical when last we wrote—the obstetric.—Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, states that with few and rare exceptions he has employed it in every case which he has attended, and with the most delightful results. Medical men, he says, “may oppose it, but I believe our patients themselves will force the use of it upon the profession.” Our object now, however, is not so much to direct attention to the administration of ether as to record the fact of another chemical body having been discovered which exerts the same influence upon the system, but is much more readily administered and free from some of the disagreeable consequences that now and then attend the taking of ether. This substance is called chloroform, or perchloride of formyle; and, curiously enough, has little resemblance to ether in its composition. Ether is composed of oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen,—whilst chloroform has no oxygen, and in addition to carbon and hydrogen contains chlorine. This substance was originally discovered by Soubeiran and Liebig;—but the properties of its vapour were first ascertained a few weeks ago by Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh. In order to produce insensibility by this agent—which, like ether, is a fluid, but less volatile—it is not necessary to use a complicated apparatus. Simply sprinkling it on a handkerchief and sponge and applying it to the nostrils during inspiration is sufficient. The effect on the nervous system is produced more rapidly than by ether—and the sleep or insensibility occasioned by the new agent is of a more profound kind than that caused by the old one. The quantity of chloroform required is much less than of ether—amounting in most cases to at least nine-tenths less. Its smell is much less disagreeable. Such is an outline of the statements contained in the pamphlet of Prof. Simpson. We have made inquiries, and find that at several hospitals in London this new remedy has been tried, and that it fully bears out the statements of Prof. Simpson. The facility with which the chloroform may be used must be looked upon as a great recommendation; as in many instances persons are deterred from taking ether on account of the formidable appearance of the inhaling apparatus—whilst the trouble of administering has made medical men willing to dispense with it. We have placed Dr. Snow's book at the head of these remarks;—because, although chloroformization is likely to supplant etherization, his remarks on the administration of ether and the cautions to be adopted will not be less applicable to the one agent than to the other.—The same may be said of Dr. Brookes's pamphlet; which contains a number of cases illustrative of the value of ether as an anæsthetic agent.

On Ringworm; its Causes, Pathology, and Treatment. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S.—Mr. Wilson is well known for the attention which he has paid to the functions and diseases of the skin;—and his present work is devoted to the consideration of a particular form of diseased skin. The true nature of the various cutaneous affections of the head have until recently been very imperfectly understood; and the author of this work has attempted to unravel the copious synonymy in which they have been veiled. The subject is too strictly medical for us to enter on in detail; but we may state that Mr. Wilson is not inclined to believe in the doctrine of the vegetable origin of these diseases—nor does he believe them to be con-

tagious. In his investigations of the pathological conditions of the skin he has employed the microscope very successfully:—and no one can read his book without having a clearer view of the nature of diseases of the scalp than is afforded by most treatises on the subject.

The Preservation of Infants in Delivery. By Richard King, M.D.—This little work is devoted to an important point in the practice of obstetrics; and we think it of sufficient interest to recommend its attentive perusal to all persons engaged in that department of medical practice.

Household Surgery; or, Hints on Emergencies. By John F. South.—A useful little book for emigrants, missionaries, and others likely to be placed at a distance from competent medical advice. To those who live where they can procure the assistance of an intelligent surgeon such a volume would not only be useless but would be likely to lead to a dabbling in domestic remedies that might be positively injurious.

The Philosophy of Health. By Dr. Southwood Smith.—This is a cheap reprint, in ‘Knight's Monthly Volume,’ of one of the most elegant expositions of human physiology in our language. The merits of Dr. Southwood Smith are too well known to need any eulogy from us;—and the subject on which he here writes he has made peculiarly his own. The only point on which we would offer an expression of regret is, that these volumes do not appear to have been revised by their author. Great has been the advance of physiology and chemistry since this work was first written; and some errors unavoidable at the time when it was written might now have been left out,—whilst matter of great importance might have been added.

Handbook of Human Anatomy. Translated from the German of Dr. Von Behr, by John Birkett, F.R.C.S.—This is what its name implies,—a handbook of human anatomy. Its arrangement is simple; the facts stated are up to the time;—and we think no student of anatomy will be disappointed with it as a dissecting-room companion.

The Pathological Anatomy of the Human Body. By Julius Vogel, M.D. Translated by G. E. Day, M.D.—This is an exceedingly valuable outline of pathology. The author is acquainted with organic chemistry and the use of the microscope;—and has applied his knowledge of these subjects to the investigation of diseased function and structure. The work of translation could scarcely have been performed by one more competent than Dr. Day. The text is illustrated by several plates of microscopic diseased structure.

On Dyspepsia. By J. B. Steward, M.D.—We had thought that the subject of dyspepsia was exhausted,—that medical science had given it up in despair,—and that empiricism itself had found it too threadbare for the gullibility of the public. We knew, however, from fatal experience, that dyspepsia had not disappeared from the surface of the earth; and in the bitterness of an attack of gastrodynia, laid hold of Dr. Steward's volume as the latest production on the subject,—in the hope that some new Liebigian view, or some recently discovered chemical principle, might at last be the alkali which we had for so many years been seeking. We were especially encouraged to this investigation by the modest title-page of the author—‘On Dyspepsia, with Remarks submitted in support of the Opinion that the proximate Cause of this, and of all other Diseases affecting the General System, is Vitiation of the Blood.’ But, alas! we have been grievously disappointed. The author, indeed, gives some very good reasons to show that it is not altogether improbable that our dyspeptic blood is vitiated:—and under these circumstances, he recommends calomel and carbonate of soda. We had unfortunately tried these remedies many years ago, at the recommendation of our grandfather's physician;—and can only say that they never suited our case. Those, however, to whom such remedies in such a disease are novelties we must refer for particulars to Dr. Steward's book.

Half-Yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences. January-June, 1847.—The abstracts and reports in this volume, by the editor and his able assistants, are drawn up with that ability of which we have before spoken favourably. A distinguishing feature of the present volume is a report by the editor on

Ether-inhalation. This is in some respects the best epitome that we have seen on the subject. Dr. Ranking points out—as we have done—the inconclusiveness of all the facts and arguments that have hitherto been brought forward against the use of the vapour of ether in medicine and surgery; and thus concludes:—"We do not deny that other and more logical objections may, upon further experience, be justifiably adduced; but we do maintain that up to the present time no evidence of injurious effects has been brought forward which ought to weigh against the accumulated testimony—in surgery more particularly—which has caused many to regard the introduction of ether-inhalation as one of the most merciful dispensations of Providence."

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 Wright's Examples and Problems in Mathematics, 2nd ed. 8s. 6d.

SAINT ANTHONY'S WELL.

[In the north-west of Ireland there exists an old belief that springs dedicated to this saint possess the power of Lethe over earthly affections. One of the most celebrated wells so dedicated is known to be in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh,—but whether or not this superstition is attached to it the writer cannot say.]

They had called the fount by a saintly name
 From the days of the land's old faith and fame:
 The vase in the cleft lay clear and cold,
 The crag o'er its rest rose rough and bold,
 Yet tracked by a pilgrim path of old
 Where peer and peasant climbed to pray
 At a chapel shrine of the elder day:
 But the faith was gone and the ruin grey,—
 And Autumn's noon on the hills around
 Lay clear in mellowed light,
 And a stately town with a castle crowned
 Rose fair and full in sight.

A shepherd stood by that fountain's brink
 When a sage from a far land stooped to drink.
 "Shepherd, another isle I knew
 That could boast such saintly fountains too,—
 And they sought them for love's Lethe dew;
 Is it so with this old pilgrim well?"
 "Stranger, 'tis long since changed and fell
 My country's trust from saint and spell:
 There may stoop at times dark heads and hoar
 By the hermit's fountain yet,—
 But thou, with thy wealth of trustless lore,
 What love wouldst thou forget?"

"Hast thou not traversed land and sea
 With a fearless heart and a footstep free!
 Is not the wide green earth thy home,
 With the snows to rest with the spring to roam,
 And thy chosen friend the storied tomb?
 Thou hast sat with this by the lamp-light lone,
 By the greenwood's violet bank?"
 "But an earlier page to my soul was known!"
 "And deeply the wanderer drank."

"Nay, but thy wisdom's fame spreads far,
 And its light shines cold as a wintry star,—
 Thy search is deep and thy doubt is strong,
 And thou tak'st no part with the peasant throng
 In the cottage prayer or the evening song,—
 Thy memory turns to no household scene
 From the strife of toiling men?"
 "But oh, the hills that I left were green!"
 "And the pilgrim drank again."

"And smile'st thou not at the shadowy ties
 That bind the swain to his native skies?
 Falls not thy gaze alike on all,
 Trusted temple and hearth-lit hall—
 The bridal robe and the funeral pall?
 Thou know'st how the clay and iron cleave
 To the homes of every shore?"

"But oh, the tales that my dreams believe!"
 "And the wanderer drank once more."

"Shepherd, the bright springs of the wild
 Flow fresh and free for the peasant's child;
 And the bard may catch, like far-off chimes,
 Through the onward rush of our changing times,
 The dim old legend tales and rhymes
 Bequeathed to fount and ruin hoar
 By the fond unsearching faith of yore,—
 But their power hath passed for evermore!
 I came and drank—but I trusted not;
 For the wide earth hath no wave
 To feed the heart in its days of drought,—
 And our Lethe is the grave!"

FRANCES BROWN.

Edinburgh, 1847.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

We were the first to announce, a few weeks ago, that Government purposed taking immediate steps to send out Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his party;—and we have since been earnest in pressing, on the plea of the public anxiety, that nothing might be omitted or postponed which the real circumstances of the case demanded. We are now enabled to present our readers with the following particulars,—which proceed from the highest official authority. Three Expeditions will be sent to the Arctic regions;—one will be despatched in the course of a few days to Behring's Straits; the second will sail early in the ensuing spring to Baffin's Bay, and will be under the command of Sir James Ross; and the third will consist of an overland Expedition to be placed under the direction of Sir John Richardson.

The boats, with their crews of twenty men, belonging to the last-named Expedition went out to Hudson's Bay during the late summer; and intelligence of their safe arrival at York Factory and departure for the interior has reached this country. They were to winter at Cumberland House, or at Saskatchewan River; and as soon as the navigation opens in the spring are to resume their voyage to the Mackenzie River. Sir John Richardson and another officer will leave England in March next for Canada; and by travelling in light canoes by the usual route of the fur-traders to the north-west, they hope to overtake the boats in July and with them to reach the Arctic Sea in the beginning of August,—with an ample supply of nutritious and solid food. The intention of this party is to track the coast to the eastward of the Mackenzie River—to communicate with the various tribes of Esquimaux, in expectation of gleaming some tidings of the discovery ships—to examine Wollaston Land, and trace, as far as practicable, any inlets that may lead to the north—to erect land-marks on various headlands, with written communications buried underneath,—and when the season closes, to repair to winter quarters at Great Bear Lake, by the Copper Mine River. The boat parties to be sent out from the vessel which is to winter within Behring's Straits, together with parties over the ice in the spring, will, it is hoped, fully explore the sea to the westward of the Mackenzie;—and, as one of Sir James Ross's ships is to be stationed in Lancaster Sound at the north end of North Somerset, parties sent

out from thence, both to the northward and southward, will explore that neighbourhood. Another of Sir James's ships will push on to Banks Land—and in like manner send out exploring parties in every direction; the one sent southwards having the prospect of intersecting Sir J. Richardson's route, and—if thought expedient—of communicating with him by the Coppermine River. The search of the coast and of Wollaston and Victoria Land will be resumed by Sir John Richardson in the summer of 1849, if necessary.

Notwithstanding that the Admiralty have judged it prudent to make the preparations for these extensive researches, we are gratified at being informed that most of the officers who, from having acquaintance with the navigation of the Arctic Seas and the intentions of Sir John Franklin, are qualified to judge in the matter continue to hope that Sir John Franklin has succeeded in passing Behring's Straits. Had his vessels been nipped in the ice, or stopped in Lancaster Sound, he would, we are assured, have returned to England about this time; and as he has not done so, they consider it probable that he had succeeded in getting so well to the westward the first year that he has been enabled to clear Behring's Straits this October—in which case they look for tidings, either through Russia or by the Isthmus of Panama, in February next. He had provisions enough, it seems, to enable him to winter this season in the Arctic Sea, if he had penetrated so far to the west as to render the prospect of his passing Behring's Straits next summer such as to make his stay a third winter expedient.

[We have been again requested by Dr. King to give him the use of our columns for the publication of a letter on the subject of these expeditions to Earl Grey. As usual, Dr. King speaks his own language,—and is responsible for his own statements and opinions. We have done what was incumbent on us by pointing out the confirmation which his views and arguments maintained in this paper have already received.]

To the Right Hon. Earl Grey.

17, Savile Row, Nov. 23.

THE last ray of hope has now faded that Sir John Franklin by his own exertions can save himself and his one hundred and twenty-five followers from the death of starvation. I trust, therefore, your Lordship will excuse my calling your attention to my letter of the 10th of June last [see ante, No. 1024]—which is acknowledged, but remains unanswered. I should not have intruded myself again on your Lordship's notice were I able to believe that your Lordship is fully sensible of the heavy responsibility which the calamity has placed upon you. The Admiralty Board may send assistance by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans—they may set in motion every mariner who has assisted in ploughing the northern seas,—yet it will not relieve you from responsibility as the principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. The service which I have proposed, as a matter of precedent should emanate from the Colonial Board. It was from that Board that assistance was despatched in search of Sir John Ross; and from that Board the Polar Land Journeys, so fruitful in result, were one and all set on foot.

I have already called your Lordship's attention to the evidence which Sir Edward Parry on his retirement from active service has laid before the Admiralty in confirmation of his opinion that the most serious consequences to his crew would be the result of passing a third winter in the Polar regions—and a third winter, it is now too evident, the lost expedition must pass in the inclement North. In order, however, to save our fellow creatures from all the horrors of starvation and its awful consequences, I have offered to your Lordship to undertake the boldest journey which has ever been proposed,—and one which is justifiable only from the circumstances. I have offered to attempt to reach the western land of North Somerset before the close of the summer of 1848—to accomplish, in fact, in one summer that which has never been accomplished under two summers,—by which means I incur the risk of having to winter with the Esquimaux,—or of having to make the journey along the barren ground to winter quarters on snow shoes. How, your Lordship may inquire, is this Herculean task to be performed? Upon what grounds do I rest my hope of success? I would state, in answer, that

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it is necessary the leader of such a journey should have an intimate knowledge of the country and the people through which he has to pass,—the health to stand the rigour of the climate,—and the strength to undergo the fatigue of mind and body to which he will be subjected. It is because I have these requisites, which I conscientiously believe are not to be found in another, that I hope to effect my purpose. The uncivilized man—and upon the service under consideration we must have large dealings with him—in choosing his subject looks for physical, not mental, qualifications; and if these are not apparent, he is cautious and undecided,—and the more you hurry him the less certain you are of making him answer your purpose. Time, the most important element in Polar travelling, will in this way be lost to the stranger in the land, and the journey rendered unavailing,—while my great activity, power of endurance, and success as a physician, during my journey in search of Sir J. Ross, must be fresh in the recollection of nine-tenths of the Indian population through which such a mission as I have proposed will have to pass,—and cannot fail to secure to me every co-operation. It is a well ascertained fact that the medical traveller succeeds where all others fail.

If your Lordship will take a glance at the map of North America and direct your attention to but three places,—Behring Strait on the Pacific, Barrow Strait on the Atlantic, and the land of North Somerset between them—you will perceive that to render assistance to a party situated on that land there are two ways by sea and one by land. Of the two sea ways, the route by the Pacific is altogether out of the question. It is an idea of by-gone days,—while that by the Atlantic is so doubtful of success that it is merely necessary, in order to put this assistance aside as far from certain, to mention that Sir John Ross found Barrow Strait closed in the summer of 1832,—and as this Strait has been visited only six times, it may be far from an unusual circumstance. To a land journey, then, alone we can look for success,—for the failure of a land journey would be the exception to the rule, while the failure of a sea expedition would be the rule itself.

To the western land of North Somerset, where, I maintain, Sir John Franklin will be found, the Great Fish River is the direct and only route; and although the approach to it is through a country too poor and too difficult of access to admit of the transport of provision, it may be made the medium of communication between the lost expedition and the civilized world,—and Indian guides be thus placed at their disposal to convey them to the hunting grounds of the Red Men. Without such guides it is impossible that they can reach these hunting grounds. It was by that intricate and dangerous river that I reached the Polar Sea while acting as second officer in search of Sir John Ross; and as there were but two officers on that honourable service, your Lordship can but look to those officers for the elements of success, if a mission by that river is resolved upon. All that I can do, as one of those officers so peculiarly circumstanced, is to place my views on record as an earnest of my sincerity. Even if the Admiralty should determine to try to force provision-vessels through Behring and Barrow Straits, and scour the vicinity in boats for the lost expedition,—and try they must,—and succeed, it will be satisfactory to know that such a mission as I have proposed was adopted; while if they should fail in their attempts,—and I am sorry to say that I fully believe they will fail,—and the service under consideration is put aside, it will be a source of regret that not only the nation at large will feel, but the whole civilized world. When this regret is felt, and every soul has perished, such a mission as I have proposed will be urged again and again for adoption; for it is impossible that the country will rest satisfied until a search be made for the remains of the lost expedition by a person in whom the country has confidence. No inexperienced person can go upon such an errand. The efforts of the Danish government for the lost colonies of Greenland, the efforts of the Portuguese government for the brothers Cortereal, and the efforts of the French government for the unfortunate La Perouse, cannot fail to raise our national pride when placed in similar circumstances.

It has been stated in the periodical literature of

the day that a party of sappers and miners sailed last June in charge of provisions destined for the Mackenzie River, as supplies for the lost expedition; and that Sir John Richardson is to leave England in February next to head this party. I hope this may be mere report. Such an expedition would be one of relief from a difficulty which, to be successful, anticipates the difficulty to be overcome,—for if the lost expedition can reach the Mackenzie River, or even the Great Bear Lake by the Coppermine River, to benefit by these supplies, they have solved the problem of more than three centuries,—they have discovered the North-West Passage: a dream we can scarcely expect to be realized.

The recent survey of Dr. Rae is satisfactory only so far as it confirms the Esquimaux chart furnished to Sir J. Ross; and as it supports my views, that the western shore of the Great Fish River estuary is continuous with the western land of North Somerset,—or, to use my own words of 1836, “that from Cape Hay the land trends N.N.E., when it dips the horizon, where a small space intervenes—in all probability a deep bay—to a land gradually rising into boldness, following a north-westerly course; the extremes of which are named Points Ross and Booth.”* If the survey of Dr. Rae could be depended upon, the view I have taken is the correct one; but at present it is valueless in a geographical point of view. The peninsularity of North Somerset is still a problem; for it is far from evident that Dr. Rae reached Lord Mayor Bay of Sir J. Ross. He not only neglected to search for the wreck of the Victory steam-ship or some token of Sir J. Ross's footing, but he commenced his journey without providing himself with the means to correct his longitude,—which he calculated entirely by dead reckoning. Further, he not only made his survey when all nature was clothed in ice and snow,—which placed it out of his power at all times to recognize land from water, much more to distinguish that water which was salt from that which was fresh,—but he made short cuts to save a journey round capes and bays, and thus lost sight of the continuity of land,—which an experienced traveller would not have done.

Even under the most favourable circumstances, it is impossible to put any other than a low value upon a winter survey in the Polar regions. This is exemplified in the journey which Sir James Clarke Ross made across the isthmus of Boothia; when he not only traced a large portion of land under an impression that he was travelling along the continent of America, which, after several years was found by a summer survey to have been an island, but he actually passed by the estuary of the Great Fish River altogether unaware of the existence of that magnificent stream. Pootes' Bay was the name given by Sir James Clarke Ross to the estuary into which the Great Fish River has since been found to empty itself.

Dr. Rae has, however, furnished us with some interesting matter for discussion. For instance, there is the evidence of the outlet of the Fish River into Regent Inlet,—for which I have so long contended; and the fact that the failure of his enterprise is wholly attributable to an accumulation of ice upon an eastern land gives additional weight to the law which I have established, that all arctic lands that have an eastern aspect are ice-clogged. The journey which I proposed to Lord Glenelg in 1835, afterwards to Lord Stanley, and which I now, at the expiration of twelve years, propose to your Lordship—is along a land which has a western aspect, and which I have shown is almost invariably ice-free. My progress, therefore, to the spot where I suppose the lost expedition will be found will be unimpeded; and not only will the question as to the peninsularity of North Somerset be set at rest, but that which remains undone of the northern configuration of America will be completed,—for it is by hugging the western land of North Somerset only that we can expect to fall upon the traces of the lost expedition, if we are to look for it in that direction.

I would state, in conclusion, that the various surveys which have been set afloat since I came forward in 1836 as a volunteer have but cleared the way to render the soundness of my views the more apparent. The several expeditions which have since been

undertaken, whether they have resulted in success or failure, have afforded so many successive links in the chain of evidence which demonstrates the scientific character of the views advanced by me in 1836,—and for adherence to which I have been refused all character as a scientific traveller and all honorary acknowledgment of faithful service to my country. I am not, however, asking your Lordship to recommend to her Majesty the bestowing upon me a mark of approbation, as a reward for the soundness of these views, which has been bestowed upon those who contradicted them. I am asking your Lordship to appoint me to a service for which I am peculiarly qualified,—a service of extreme hazard and labour, but which, to be successful, must be undertaken by some one of great experience. I am willing to labour still for that recognition which will give me equality with those who are now my superiors:—and when I state to your Lordship that I stand alone as a single individual, isolated from the heroes of the Pole in regard to reward for services, I trust your Lordship will consider that I have strong claims for such a service. The time has arrived, I say, when I am able to refer your Lordship to my past services and my present character as a guarantee that I am sincere in my offer, and as an earnest that I will faithfully discharge the duties which will devolve upon me if I should be honoured with the service I am seeking at your Lordship's hands. Surely, my Lord, I should now have a peace offering. A considerable portion of the main continent of North America bears the outline which I gave to it,—in which I differed with Sir George Back. The Great Bay of Simpson and the trending of the land north-east of Cape Hay are so many truths; and although the trending of the land named Points Ross and Booth,—which I maintain runs N. W. and S. E., and not East and West as Sir George Back has mapped it,—and the peninsularity of North Somerset, for which I have for twelve years contended, have to be proved, they are rendered highly probable by the journey of Dr. Rae.

That I have laboured through this difficult subject for so many years, and at last successfully,—that I have been the first to show how the great puzzle of three centuries could be unravelled,—and that I have constantly offered for a period of twelve of those years, whenever an opportunity occurred, to be the means of unravelling it,—inspire me with the hope that I shall at last find justice at the hands of your Lordship, and that I may be allowed to have my place in the great effort which must be made for the rescue of the 126 men who compose the lost Expedition.—I have the honour, &c.

RICHARD KING.

A CHARACTER.

Thou hast the freshness of a cheerful mind
That never dreamed of doubt;
New truths to thee are borne on every wind,
Blowing their bright side out.

Thy prayerful life but shines with doubled light
When dark times through it flow,—
As lamp-lit Venice doth illumine all night
The black canals below!

M. R.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

I am just returned from a visit to King's Sonbourne—a village near Stockbridge, in Hampshire; to which I was led by a desire to see what I could in so short a space as a single morning of the workings of a national school opened just five years ago by the Rev. Richard Dawes, the incumbent. I had had the curiosity first to inquire into the parish statistics generally; and found they were pretty much on a level with a class of agricultural parishes neither the best nor the worst that may be found in England,—but decidedly inclining to the latter. The poor-rate and road-rate of the place (the two accounts being inextricably mingled) had averaged for the seven years preceding 1835, 1,600*l.* a-year,—the population being 1,040. From this extremely bad state of things there has been a gradual return to a better since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act; but nothing which could lead any one to expect that the value of education would be felt by the inhabitants and exertions made in its behalf,—or that the labouring poor and their children would be able to do anything towards procuring its ad-

* King's 'Arctic Ocean,' vol. ii. p. 26.

antages. We were further told that the population may now be taken at about 1,125; the area included in its boundaries being 7,500 acres—chiefly distributed into large farms. About 800 of the inhabitants are congregated in a village round the church,—while the rest are widely scattered abroad. There are no resident gentry to assist or take an interest in education; and the farmers are so little inclined to co-operate that Mr. Dawes declares he has never known “an instance of one of that class encouraging a labourer to send his children for a longer period to school, however trifling the work for which he might want them.”

Knowing beforehand these rather discouraging facts, I was curious to learn how the worthy incumbent of this parish had contrived to carry out his idea of establishing schools uniting the employer and employed, which should be fit to meet the wants of the occupying class of farmers, and therefore justify such a charge as might reasonably be made to that class—while at the same time they enabled the child of the labourer to obtain at small cost what he also requires,—no distinction being made in the school-room, and only that in the end which is the necessary result of a position requiring in the one case the labour of the hands at much earlier period than in the other, and therefore curtailing the time given to education.

Not to enter too minutely into detail, I will briefly state what my companion and I saw at King's Sonbourne. The buildings—comprising two large school-rooms, a class-room, and a dwelling for the master and his wife—are handsome and convenient; and were built from the plans, and in part with the assistance, of the Council of Education. The site (an ancient palace of John of Gaunt) was given by Lady Mildmay. We first visited the girls' school-room. Here we found a number of tall, intelligent-looking, neat and modest, well-mannered girls—ranging from the ages of 9 to 15. The average age, we were told, is from ten to ten and eight months:—which occasioned us some surprise, as it appeared to us below the standard at this particular period. About 174 pupils may be reckoned as the numbers for the united schools: in addition to which a dame school of forty children exists in the village,—serving in some degree as a practising school for the young pupil teachers now under process of training. A class of girls being called up by Mr. Dawes, we had the pleasure of hearing good English reading,—such as in every grade of society is rare, and among the lower orders scarcely to be met with. It was distinct, intelligent,—more free from provincialisms, we suspect, than the reading in many young ladies' schools,—yet, with here and there an exception, not laboured and pedantic. Great pains must have been taken to bring about such a result. Poetry was well recited. Questions bearing on the lesson were asked by Mr. Dawes,—both as to the meaning of words, the grammatical construction of sentences, and the subject of the lesson with its bearings. The answers indicated thorough comprehension, and were given in an easy yet respectful manner; the tone of the whole striking us as admirable. The writing from dictation which was going on, mean time, in other parts of the school appeared good. Needlework, being the employment of the afternoon, was not produced; but it is, I am assured, equally well taught with the rest. There could be no doubt, in short, that the general instruction was far superior to that which the daughters of small farmers and tradesmen can in general obtain in the country,—and that the superintendence of the excellent clergyman and his lady must have a most beneficial effect on the whole.

We then passed on to the boys' side. Here also we heard lessons given and questions satisfactorily answered. We could not find that any single thing was ill-taught:—that there might be too many things attempted is possible. But the capital and leading fact about which we had been anxious was fully ascertained: the employer and employed are taught together. No evil appears to be the result. The school is highly popular; the state of morals is improved; many young people have already been placed in situations of usefulness, and more are under training. The expenses are brought within a very moderate compass by means of the higher pay of the richer class; and yet the poor are contributors to a larger amount than is usual—purchasing without

apparent difficulty all the class books used in the school. To those who are desirous of knowing all the particulars of management by which so good a result has been obtained I recommend the perusal of Mrs. Dawes's pamphlet entitled ‘Hints on an Improved and Self-paying System of National Education,’ published by Groombridge. For my own part, I came away perfectly satisfied that similar pains-taking alone is required to produce the same, or a better, result in many an obscure village. There will be differences of opinion respecting the desirableness of communicating so much general and surface knowledge,—and some will advocate the introduction of more manual labour; but the principle is established: and the multiplication of such schools as Mr. Dawes's, uniting two different classes hitherto kept almost distinct in our educational arrangements, will do more to civilize the people than any means that have yet been devised for their improvement.

I am, &c. X. T.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

It is now definitely settled that Shakespeare's house, and the Shakespeare premises adjoining, will, as soon as the money is subscribed, be made over by the Committees to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. There was some talk of vesting the property in certain trustees unconnected with the Government; but counsel's opinion has been taken on the subject—the funds looked into,—and the idea abandoned. The conveyance of the property, whether to trustees, to the Queen herself, or to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, requires, it appears, an Act of Parliament; and we all know that an Act of Parliament is an expensive matter—with an empty purse an impossible one. The Woods and Forests will treat the conveyance, it is understood, as an act of their own, and pass it through Parliament at the expense of the parties for whom the conveyance is made—the British public. We will not hesitate to say that we greatly lament this decision; but the public, who did not supply the materials for a different one, must relieve the Committees of the responsibility. The next consideration is—what is to be done with the house—will the Committees convey it unconditionally to the Commissioners of Woods? or will they stipulate for certain things being done, and done at once? We believe the Committees will not make the surrender unconditionally; and the Commissioners, with Lord Morpeth at their head, are, we also believe, solicitous to do whatever they can do on their own responsibility,—and even to apply to Government for assistance in the matter. It has been suggested by the Committees, amongst other things, to found a “Shakespeare College” at Stratford for decayed dramatists and actors—to restore the old dormer windows in the sloping roof—to separate the house from the low dirty tenements which endanger it—and to cover it all in, like Peter the Great's house at Amsterdam, with some tasteful structure of a light Elizabethan or perpendicular character. This, it will be seen, like some other projects which have been hinted by ourselves, is an expensive scheme. It is useless, however, at present, with a deficient fund for the very purchase of the house, to contemplate seriously the foundation of a college for even a dozen poor dramatists and actors. But with or without much money something must be done—and the safety of the house seems the first great point for consideration. This has recently been insured by the Sun Fire Office; and the description given by the surveyor of that office, embodied in the policy, conveys the best account (and a somewhat amusing one) of the very peculiar property in the possession of the Committees.—

The Swan and Maidenhead Inn and Offices, all communicating, situate in Henley-street, Stratford-on-Avon, in the county of Warwick,—brick and timber .. £300
Brew-house and two Stables adjoining the last above mentioned, not communicating therewith, but with each other .. 40
Stable, adjoining last above mentioned,—brick .. 40
Piggery, adjoining last above mentioned,—brick .. 5
Stable and Loft, over on the west side of the yard, near the last above mentioned,—brick .. 30
Piggery, on the west side of yard,—brick .. 5
Cottage, at the bottom of the yard aforesaid, in tenure of John Berry,—brick .. 80
Shakespeare's House and Offices, all communicating, adjoining the Swan and Maidenhead Inn above mentioned,—timber and plaster .. 400

House adjoining, in tenure of Hewins,—timber and plaster .. 300
Three Cottages, adjoining last above mentioned, in tenure of Widow Ludlow, John Breedon, and Samuel Steel, a wood turner,—brick .. 200
£1,000

All tiled or slated.

Mem.—Steel, the turner, works in a shop belonging to himself, communicating with his house, but not included in this insurance.
The three stables, the two piggeries, the brewhouse, and all the adjoining tenements, should be at once swept away.—Steel, the turner's, workshop bought up,—and the house covered in and restored to as great a likeness of the first drawing which we have as is possible. This would project it a little into the street; but Henley-street is a good wide one, without much traffic,—and really in want of some ornamental structure. It is easy to fancy a Shakespeare College—which should be not only an asylum for decayed dramatists and actors, but a museum also, containing a noble dramatic library,—attracting students of our literature to Stratford for the purposes of research, as well as pilgrims from the four quarters of the world to the birth-place of the world's greatest Poet.

Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson sold on Saturday last a small and somewhat choice collection of Saxon and English coins. The highest price given was 10l. 5s. for an extremely rare coin, Ceolwulf with head, ‘Woddel.’ A coin of Edward the Elder with head, the identical coin engraved in Mr. Lindsay's work, brought 6l. 2s. 6d.—Eadred, with ornament on reverse, and supposed to be unique, was bought for 6l. 10s., for the British Museum. The Oxford Twenty-Shilling Piece of Charles I. (date 1643, and in fine condition) sold for 9l. 9s.

The Central Committee of the Archaeological Institute are taking measures for the immediate preparation of a series of manuals in illustration of British antiquities, including all branches of archaeological research and every period. A full announcement of their plans may shortly be anticipated:—and, in the mean time, we are enabled to state that these manuals will include many objects of antiquarian science hitherto neglected or imperfectly illustrated, drawn from original sources, scattered notices and costly publications. The early British, Roman-British, and Anglo-Saxon periods will form distinct portions of the plan; and under each the stationary monuments—as tumuli, camps, roads, or buildings—will be illustrated and classed,—as well as the weapons, ornaments, and other moveable remains of each successive period. The subject of costume will naturally form an attractive feature of this series; and will be treated under all its divisions of military, secular, and ecclesiastical costumes,—personal and sacred ornaments, church decoration, and monachism. The plan will embrace heraldry, social life, the sports and pageantry of ancient times, manufactures and commerce, decorative arts and the symbolism of the early artists, numismatics, seals, musical instruments,—and other subjects of curious inquiry, in which a growing interest has been excited by the taste for archaeological investigation. Ecclesiastical architecture has already been largely illustrated by recent writers; but military architecture is almost an untouched subject, with which much that is interesting not less to the historian than to the antiquary is connected. Some of these projected manuals are already in preparation. The ‘Instructions’ of the French ‘Comité des Monuments’ is a work somewhat of this kind,—but scarcely extended enough in its plan or sufficiently attractive to the uninitiated reader.

Sir Robert H. Schomburgk having completed his ‘History of the Island of Barbadoes’—on which he has long been employed—is preparing for early publication a narrative of his eight years' rambles in the forests and savannahs of Guiana and towards the sources of the Orinoco. Sir Robert has also, we understand, been engaged by the Hakluyt Society to edit Sir Walter Raleigh's ‘Voyage to Guiana.’ The subject could scarcely, we imagine, be in better hands than those of this eminent traveller.—Among Edinburgh publications, we hear of a work in which the Rev. Thomas McCrie, Mr. Hugh Miller, and Professor Fleming are, amongst other writers, engaged—to be called ‘The Bass Rock’—and to give an account as well of the Natural History of the

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Arras, was elected an honorary and corresponding member, and Major-Gen. H. Vyse, an honorary member.

Mr. C. H. Smith gave some description of the stone called "Trappean" or "Porphyritic"—which has been in very general use for building purposes in different parts of Devonshire.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson described the Cathedral of St. Maria del Fiore, at Florence,—more particularly with reference to a design for a new façade to the west end of that building recently submitted by the Cardinal Niccolo Matas to the notice of the Institute.

A letter was read from Dr. John Sutherland, of Liverpool, editor of the *Journal of Public Health*, asking for communications on that subject, and the support of the architects of Great Britain;—to whom, he observes, "must be committed, to a great extent, the practical application of those rules which it has been the endeavour of scientific men to discover, and which it will be the object of sanitary legislation to enforce."

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Nov. 17.—W. H. Bodkin, Esq. V.P., in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected members:—S. M. Hubert, H. Duesbury, J. C. A. Duval, S. Moulton, F. K. Hewitt, J. Dyte, G. C. Handford, G. Beard, and D. J. Hoare, Esqs.

A communication by Mr. Briant was read, 'On his Plan for Overcoming the Difficulties of a Break of Gauge, and of uniting the Broad and Narrow Gauge Railways.'—A communication by D. J. Hoare, Esq., was read, 'On a Railway Telegraph and Alarm to be used as a Means of Communicating between the Guard and Driver of Railway Carriages.'

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. British Architects, 8, P.M.
— Royal Academy.—Anatomical Lecture.
— Botanical Society, 8.—Anniversary.
TUES. Royal Society, 4.—Anniversary.
WED. Geological Society, half-past 8.
THURS. Zoological Society, 5.—General Business.
— Society of Antiquaries, 8.
FRI. Archaeological Institute, 4.
SAT. Asiatic Society, 2.

FINE ARTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Roberts's Sketches in Egypt and Nubia. Part V. —To say that this last number fully justifies all that we have said of its predecessors is to accord to it no mean praise.—The opening subject, 'Abyssinian Slaves at Korti,' presents Mr. Roberts as a draughtsman of the figure; and he has very ably given the different groups, with such appropriate incidents as make the print a capital record of an Oriental custom—that of the preparation of the *dourra*, or Indian corn, for bread. Mr. Haghe has put them beautifully on the stone.—The Portico of the Temple of Kalabshi exhibits the artist's superiority in architectural delineation. Precise and careful, yet broad and effective,—the texture of even the material of construction is given with fidelity.—The same may be said of the 'View from under the Portico of the Temple of Edfou' and the view 'At Luxor.'—The character of Nature in all her sternness is well discriminated in the 'Libyan Chain of Mountains from the Temple of Luxor'; the geological structure of the terraced hills well attended to.—The *dromos*, or avenue of andro-sphinxes, to the Propylon of 'The Temple of Wady Saboua, Nubia,' makes a capital vignette—and shows how much space may be described by very slender means. In each new example the conviction is yet more forced on us that of all illustrators of the East, English or foreign, Mr. Roberts is the chief. He selects his subjects with judgment in reference to their points of view,—and identifies himself with their character in the delineation.

Portrait of Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish Poet. Drawn by J. F. Möller.—As far as mere resemblance is concerned, the artist may be said to have succeeded. But the expression is undignified; and, though in the original himself there is an air of much suavity, it ought not to have been allowed here to degenerate into a simpler unredeemed by intellectuality. As a piece of lithography, much cannot be said in praise of this work.

The Most Honourable the Marquis of Granby. Painted by Francis Grant, A.R.A. Engraved in Mezzotint by G. R. Ward.—*James Duff, Esq. M.P. for Banff.* Painted and engraved by the Same.—

The first of these works is a very respectable version by the engraver of a spirited sketch by Mr. Grant—executed, we are told, at a sitting. The second is a picturesque representation of a Highland sportsman and his dog. The tone of both prints is an improvement on the character and colour of many of our mezzotints of the day. The slight tinge of warmth is a great advantage to the flesh tints. More attention might be paid to the colour of printing inks with great advantage to engravings.

Picturesque Illustrations of Ancient Architecture in Hindostan. By James Ferguson. No. 2.—Of the second number of this publication little more can be said than that the subjects are more remarkable as curiosities in the art of Architecture than interesting to the professor.—'The Temple of Vimala, Sah Abu,' (No. 9), has a striking correspondence in its plan with the cloisters of monkish times; as has 'The Temple of Sadri' (Plate 10)—many of whose details are to be found in the religious edifices of the republics of Italy. The last-named is perhaps the best and most rational structure of those in the present number.

Views of the Eastern Archipelago, Borneo, Sarawak, Labuan, &c. From Drawings by Capt. Drinkwater Bethune, R.N.—This publication has a peculiar interest from the circumstances that just now direct the earnest attention of Englishmen to the scenes which it undertakes to present. The first number contains some lithographed views of the island of Borneo, highly expressive of the fertility and resources of the country. The subject, however, is worthy of better Art.

FINE ART GOSSIP.—It is not many weeks since we were complaining of the poverty of our street architecture—so far as that depends on the private residences thrown up for, and by, the aristocratic classes of our great metropolis. We now, therefore, allude with pleasure to an instance of another kind,—which we hope will not long remain a solitary one. Park Lane, notwithstanding that it is one of the *habitats* of opulence, rank, and fashion, has hitherto shown such doings in brick and mortar, and such a jumble of wretched attempts at design, that the "Baker Street" style becomes tasteful by comparison with it.—Here, however, an architectural specimen of very superior quality now presents itself at No. 19. The size of the edifice in question is not remarkable—the frontage being not more than from twenty to twenty-five feet. It is a lofty stone front—consequently of narrow or "upright" proportions; in the later perpendicular style of Gothic, with a noble oriel window carried up the height of both the first and second floor. Immediately above that projecting bay is a single large window of the same width; and the elevation is finished by a parapet and two gabled lucarnes over it in the roof.—This conveys no more than a very general idea of the outline and scheme of the elevation with regard to its principal features; in which respect the design might still be the same, and yet a very poor one—noticeable only as an attempt at something different from usual practice. But here we have far more—the style adopted being fully exemplified in some of its most valuable qualities. To excellence of detail is added excellence of execution; and there is, moreover, the very rare merit—a merit not always found in some of the best ancient exemplars—of perfect completeness and attention to finish and embellishment throughout. The ornateness which characterizes the oriel is extended to all the other features and members. The richness which marks that feature is not made to appear too ostentatious for the rest owing to the rest being comparatively poor and tame. The architect, if we are correctly informed, is Mr. Moffatt. For whose residence it is erected we know not—but it is seemingly for some one who cares for, and can appreciate, beauty of design.

The two appointments of Secretary and Professor of Painting in the Royal Academy, vacated by the death of the late Mr. Howard, have been filled up in the manner we had anticipated. Mr. Knight, having no opposition, walked over the course as Secretary—and Mr. Leslie has been unanimously elected the new Professor.

We hear that Mr. Richardson the sculptor is engaged on two marble monuments ordered by the officers of the 16th Lancers and the 31st Regiment

of Foot, to commemorate—in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral—those of their brethren who fell in the recent actions on the Sutlej.

In accordance with the resolution of the directors and subscribers to the National Monument on the Calton Hill, the requisite Parliamentary notices have been issued of an intended application to the Legislature for power to alter and enlarge the Act of Incorporation in several important particulars. It is intended, as we had already announced, to increase the capital stock of the association by the creation of new shares—and also to dispense with the original intention of having a church and place of sepulture in connexion with the monument. In place of the original design, it is proposed to decorate the interior, as well as the exterior, of the building with sculpture illustrative of national achievements,—and to adapt the interior for the reception of monumental busts and statues of distinguished men of all nations. The maintenance and repair of the monument is to be upheld by the imposition of a sum for admission.

In France, the inauguration of the statues of Portalis and Simeon took place at Aix on the 8th of November—and our American brethren at Washington have had great doings on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a monument to the hero after whom the city has its name.

There is no end to the bickerings amongst artists. The principle of association seems incapable of taking firm root in the over-sensitive soil of their profession. They cannot, it would appear, meet and be cordial like other people—but are continually reported for squabbles. We would not speak irreverently—but they will displace the tailors as proverbial belligerents if they continue to quarrel wherever they meet. A temper like Verax's will turn up at times in any field which grows disappointments—as what human ground does not?—but that a whole profession like that of the Fine Arts should come to be marked by discord as its general characteristic is certainly not consistent with the harmonies which are supposed to preside over Art. It is with great regret that we hear now of differences among the members of the Junior Society of Painters in Water Colours—which, if we be rightly informed, are likely to deprive that institution of its best support:—and the Senior Society have, as we are given to understand, been to some extent drawn into the squabble. That any dangerous elements should exist in either of these bodies will be matter of sincere disappointment to the public, which regards them as alike representing—the Senior as chief in the class of landscape and the Junior in that of figure—with honour to themselves and credit to the country a department of Art which may be said to be more peculiarly English than any other, and constitutes our great distinction amongst foreign schools.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

WEIPPERT'S SOIRÉES DANSAUTES, PRINCESS'S CONCERT ROOMS, MONDAY, November 28, and every Monday. A Subscriber of Two Guineas is entitled to an admission for himself and Lady any Six Nights during the Season. Single Tickets 7s. each. Weippert's Palace Band as usual, conducted by himself. N.C. Mr. Corrie. The Refreshments by Alfred Weippert, from Gunter's. Commence at half-past Ten. Tickets and programmes at 21, Soho-square.

THE SHAKESPEARE NIGHT,

In Aid of the Fund for the Purchase and Preservation of SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE, Is fixed for TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN, (Librally granted on the occasion by Mr. Beale. When, with a view of embodying the entire talent of the Stage, a performance will be given, to consist of 'Scenes' from the Plays of Shakespeare, supported by the aid of the following distinguished Artists, who have liberally given their services.

I.—THE DEATH OF HENRY IV.

Second Part of King Henry IV. Act IV., Scene 4.
King Henry Mr. Macready.
Prince Henry Mr. Leigh Murray.
Other Characters.—Clarence, Prince Humphrey, Warwick, Westmoreland, Harcourt, and Prince John.

II.—LANCE AND SPEED.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Act III., Scene I.
Lance Mr. Harley.
Speed Mr. Buckstone.

III.—THE DEATH OF QUEEN KATHARINE

Henry the Eighth. Act IV., Scene 2.
Queen Katharine Mrs. Butler.
Other Characters.—Griffiths, Patience, Capucius, Messenger.

IV.—FALSTAFF'S RECRUITS BEFORE JUSTICE SHALLOW.

Second Part of King Henry IV. Act III, Scene 2.

Shallow Mr. W. Foran.
Silence Mr. H. Hall.
Falstaff Mr. G. G. G.
Other Characters—Bardolph, Shadow, Wart, Feeble, and Bullcalf.

V.—JULIET'S MARRIAGE DAY.

Romeo and Juliet. The 4th Act entire.

Juliet Miss Helen Faucit.
Nurse Mrs. Glover.
Friar Lawrence Mr. Dibleau.
Other Characters—Capulet, Paris, Lady Capulet.

VI.—KATHERINE AND PETRUCHIO.

Taming of the Shrew. Portions of Act I and Act IV.

Petruchio Mr. Webster.
Katherine Mrs. Nield.
Grumio Mr. Keeley.
Other Characters—Baptista, Hortensio, &c.

VII.—THE BUCK-BASKET.

The Merry Wives of Windsor. Act III, 3rd and 4th Scenes; Act IV., Scene 2.

Falstaff Mr. Granby.
Ford Mr. Kewley.
Page Mr. Pareille.
Sir Hugh Evans Mr. Meadows.
Shallow Mr. F. Matthews.
Dr. Caius Mr. J. Bond.
Slender Mr. C. Mathews.
Mrs. Page Miss Anne Fedris.
Mrs. Ford Mrs. Stirling.
Mrs. Quickly Mrs. C. Jones.
Anne Page Miss Howard.

VIII.—THE STORY OF PROSPERO.

Tempest. Act I, Scene 2.

Prospero Mr. Phelps.
Ferndinand Mr. Morton.
Caliban Mr. G. Brown.
Miranda Miss L. Horton.
Ariel Miss P. Ashton.

IX.—THE STATUE SCENE.

A Winter's Tale. Act V, Scene 3.

Hermione Mrs. Warner.
Leontes Mrs. Turrell.
Paulina Miss Angell.
Other Characters—Polixenes, Camillo, Florizel.

THE MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Which will be illustrative of Shakespeare's Plays, under the direction of Sir HENRY BISHOP, who has kindly consented to preside on this occasion.

PRICES OF ADMISSION.

Private Boxes—Grand Tier Five Guineas.
" Pit Tier Four Guineas.
" First Tier Four Guineas.
" Second Tier Two Guineas.
" Third Tier One Guinea and Half.
" Fourth Tier One Guinea.
Pit Stalls, each Fifteen Shillings.
Pit Five Shillings.
First Amphitheatre Stalls Ten Shillings and Sixpence.
First Amphitheatre Seats Five Shillings.
Second Amphitheatre Stalls Seven Shillings and Sixpence.
Second Amphitheatre Seats Three Shillings.
Gallery Two Shillings.

The Private Boxes are restricted to four persons, with the privilege of paying Ten Shillings and Sixpence for each extra seat in the Grand, Pit and First Tiers, and Five Shillings each in the Second, Third and Fourth Tiers. The Box Office of the Theatre under the direction of Mr. Notter.—Open from Ten till Four daily.

Under the special Patronage of

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, and HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT.

And the Direction of the LONDON COMMITTEE.

VISCOUNT MORPETH, M.P., President.
THE EARL OF ELLESMERE, Vice-President.
PETER CUNNINGHAM, Esq. Treasurer.
F. G. TOMLINS, Esq. Hon. Secretary.

PRINCESS'S.—On Monday, the first part of Mr. Henry Taylor's 'Philip Van Artevelde' was produced, in an abridged form—the needless alterations having been made, it is understood, by Mr. Macready. This gentleman has done many bold things in his time—but this is perhaps the boldest. He has undertaken to reduce for stage purposes a poem written in defiance of stage rules. The two parts, with the connecting interlude, were, according to the author's own preface, "equal in length to about six such plays as are adapted to representation." In adapting the first part, therefore, about one-half needed excision. What links of connexion must in such a process have been destroyed or injured, may be easily conceived. The nine written scenes of the first act have been reduced to four—and this not by the mere omission of five scenes, but by a recombination of the materials. The curtain opens on what is in the book the third scene of the act; but this is again recast and pieced out with passages taken from other scenes both previous and subsequent—presenting a combination never thought of by the author himself. Speeches are torn from the dialogue and treated as

soliloquies—occupying in this manner an interval of time which the author had neglected to fill up. Other scenes, for the same reason, are displaced, so as to divide two points of action which in the original followed consecutively;—and some scenes are omitted altogether. As we advance further in the performance, we find even the text changed—enlarged as well as abridged; and for the sake of effect the fall of the curtain is postponed so as to include a scene in which Artevelde was present—who would else have been absent from the stage during the whole of the third act. In fact, Mr. Taylor has been treated (perhaps, with his own consent) as a dead dramatist; and the same liberties have been taken with this fragment of his dramatic romance as hitherto with Shakespeare's plays. He has, while yet living, had the honour of having his work mutilated for the stage.—The poem was the labour of many years, and the author subjected it to the discipline of a severe taste. He sought correctness and polish—remaining unsatisfied until he had rendered his work as chaste, and also as cold, as a marble statue. Such a work made not its appeal to the popular mind—but to the educated few. Thoroughly to interest the general intelligence it wanted passion, vital warmth, and picturesque colouring. Won by its classical beauty, however, many were desirous of trying its fortune on the stage:—and now, after fifteen years' deliberation, the experiment has been made.

There are some intrinsic and peculiar merits in the work itself that would seem at the first blush to entitle it to theatrical honours. The persons and incidents are alike realities,—not phantoms and dream-agonies, but historical people and events. Philip Van Artevelde is a stately, well-sustained character; holding dominion by the right of intellect, and maintaining his rank by the decision of a noble nature. The play possesses considerable novelty fitted for the stage; while free from the conventions of the green-room it has much romantic invention, and more than one startling situation made still more striking by its originality. But the necessity of abridgment deprived us of some good things. The scene in the first act between Adriana and Clara, so genial and riant, so robust and healthy in its humanity, and so true to the noblest attributes of womanhood, was thus sacrificed. We could ill spare this introductory portrait of the two heroic maidens. To the toil and tumult of the political action they lent a generous and domestic grace, which gave not only relief but interest. But stage-time would not allow of any dalliance with the Muses. Here, then, in the acting play, was one source of disappointment. Scantily furnished as the poem originally was with the fantastic element, even that little was now rendered less. We all know that the most delightful passages of Shakespeare's dramas are those in which he sports with his subject. Mr. Taylor's play could not but suffer by the abstraction of his more playful scenes. Again, the political action to which these gentler episodes were sacrificed was not, we think, presented in sufficient detail. We had the noisy presentation of the ordinary stage street-mob rather than that nice discriminative story of social grievances so graphically rendered in the unacted poem. What, however, was allowed to stand told with appropriate effect. The second act suffered less from omission; yet many traits of popular character were lost which serve in the poem to illustrate more truly the position of Van Artevelde. The scene between Oeco, Van Ryk, Van Muck, and subsequently Artevelde, was decidedly effective. The trenchery and coward fear of Oeco, the politic address of Artevelde, and his taunting counsel to the detected renegade noble, were fully understood and appreciated. We had expected much from the platform-scene outside the Stadt-house, where Artevelde, by way of peroration to his speech, stabs the traitors who had brought shameful proposals from the Earl of Flanders to the oppressed people of Ghent. This scene, as a piece of history put into dialogue, is complete enough,—but, as part of a drama, it needed more preparation, more circumstance, more vehemence in the declamation generally, and in the oration of Artevelde more idealism, so as to touch those obscure feelings which are always so strangely influential with the multitude on great public occasions. The intellect alone will not support a drama. Imagination, frequently of the loftiest order, is needful, at any rate, to

render it triumphant. A similar remark holds good with respect to the scene between Artevelde and Van den Bosch on the platform at the top of St. Nicholas's Church steeple. It is not enough to show us that Artevelde is abstractedly right in wishing to preserve the life of the herald. We should have been taught to take an interest in the herald himself. Something of moment should have depended on him in relation to some interesting person of the drama. Idea, sentiment, passion, should all have been mingled with the mere intellectual, or moral, right and wrong. Nothing of this, however, is attempted; and we are left to admire the hero of the pure intellect, whose conduct is regulated solely by the abstract maxims of political justice. In the subsequent scene, finely conceived as it is, where Van den Bosch is roused from sleep but still wild with indignation, there is a similar defect of imagination. In some idea then announced should have been found the transition point of reconciliation. The bare statement of the fact as given, however it might have convinced Van den Bosch of Artevelde's superior prudence, would more likely have irritated him to further mischief than secured his forbearance. These remarks conduct us to the end of the fourth act. The fifth is little noticeable except for the unwarrantable liberty taken with the text. The part of Clara is in representation given to the Page—the dialogue being suitably altered; and thus is the character of the maiden deprived of even the scanty action bestowed upon it by the author. The circumstance of the Earl of Flanders finding refuge with the Flemish widow, which in the poem reads almost like a Scripture incident, becomes in performance a piece of ridiculous melo-drama,—and, indeed, excited most unreasonable laughter. We have heard the want of a catastrophe objected to. That the acted piece concludes in the middle of the action arises from the fact of the entire written drama being in two parts.

Such being the merits and demerits of this well-known work—and such the manner of its representation—we have now to state its effect upon the audience. We watched the pit with great care and attention,—and our impression was that the majority looked rather puzzled than pleased. There was much patient attention—some applause at long intervals—but there appeared a want of apprehension as well as of enthusiasm. We may therefore doubt whether 'Philip Van Artevelde' will prove attractive; but should it not, the failure would still be far from settling the claims of the poetical drama to representation,—this particular work being written upon peculiar and exclusive principles rejecting those aids which in other poetical dramas are willingly admitted. For the pains taken in the *mise en scene* and the general getting-up of the piece the author is deeply indebted to Mr. Macready; who in favour of this production has broken up the system of parsimony on which the management of this theatre is conducted. We hope it may remunerate him for the outlay. His personation of the hero was dignified, calm, intellectual, and strongly pronounced. He was evidently anxious for variety—and sometimes achieved it; but there was little opportunity,—character, circumstances and situations being equally monotonous. He made much of the love scene with Adriana. His address from the platform struck us as being deficient in the popular element of democratic vehemence. We do not think that a crowd would have been moved to great issues by such a speech so delivered. His scenes with Oeco and Van den Bosch were capital. The latter character was forcibly played by Mr. Ryder;—but Mr. James Vining in the *Earl of Flanders* was a failure. Much praise is due to Miss Emmeline Montague for her impassioned performance of *Adriana*; and the little which remained for Miss Susan Cushman in *Clara*, she did well. Had this character been left in its integrity, it would have thrown a sunlight over the whole performance the want of which was painfully felt.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The committees of our provincial Musical Festivals are astir with unusual activity and foresight. Measures have been already taken to provide the necessary stewardship for the Hereford music meeting in 1848,—and M. Benedict has been retained to conduct the Norwich Festival.—There should be, also,

a musical celebration at Liverpool next autumn, by way of opening the new Concert Hall there. For this it was the intention of Dr. Mendelssohn to have written a *cantata*,—a class of composition to which he frequently expressed his intention of making further additions. More than one subject was under consideration for the occasion in question. We have been told that his fancy was particularly attracted, while in Switzerland, by the passage of Napoleon over the Great St. Bernard as a picture to be displayed in descriptive music: but this he rejected as unsuitable for the inauguration of an English building. Having unconsciously digressed into reminiscence; and the slightest touch or trait throwing light upon the tastes and fancies of so great a musician being worthy of preservation:—the same authority enables us to add, with reference to this Liverpool *cantata*, that while talking over this matter "with the Jungfrau in sight, and expressing with his usual animation his desire to record his love for Switzerland in some musical work, Dr. Mendelssohn referred with cordial admiration to Rossini's 'Guillaume Tell'—in particular to the first and third movements of the overture and to the second *finale*. 'I should like to do something as good,' were his own modest words. He spoke, too, with due honour of the Swiss opera by Cherubini;—of whose stage music he was a cordial admirer. Seldom, assuredly, has artist himself so individual shown so wide a range of sympathy."

We observe that Mr. Horn, the best of our ballad composers—and who if trained under a better dispensation might have done much for English music—has accepted a musical appointment as Director of a Choral Society in Boston, New England.

The musical event of the last week in Paris has been the opening of the Third Opera House. It is curious in a metropolis so much smaller than our own to find the orthodoxy of a certain neighbourhood recognized as a matter of so much greater consequence than with ourselves. Let us illustrate.—The obscurity of Wych Street, a *terra incognita* difficult of access, did not prevent the best company in London from flocking to the "Olympic Revels" when Madame Vestris held them there. The melo-dramatic tastes of the public who fill the Surrey did not prevent them from enjoying the tragedy of Macready and Miss Cushman—and does not now from paying tribute to Bellini's sentimentalities and Balfe's liveliness in music. Have we not, again, 'The Winter's Tale,' with *Florizel* and *Perdita*, at the 'Wells,'—and 'The Scornful Lady' and 'The Bridal' in Portman Market? Now, to the lounge in Paris the shades of difference between the Italian Boulevard and the Temple Boulevard, though perceptible, are mere rainbow-varieties as compared with the strong contrasts of London. Yet we find every journalist who treats of this third French opera-house assigning to it a place as necessarily separate and peculiar as if the *gambes jaunes* could not get past a certain *café* or linden-tree;—as if, because the people of a particular *quartier* had been used to find one entertainment at Franconi's they would accept no other there. In brief, there appears a disposition to dub the new theatre the Boulevard Opera-house; and as such to demand from it a more popular (not to say vulgar) style of music and drama than obtains at the two other musical theatres. After we have again and again been told that the *Salle Lepelletier* and the *Salle Favart* were insufficient to represent the artistic genius of France, it seems at once agreed that such artistic genius as is essential to the first and second Theatres is too fine, recondite, &c., &c., &c., for its new locality,—and recognized as a fact that the public will not follow it there. This may be mere journalist's talk, 'tis true; but it is worth dwelling upon as illustrating the difference betwixt ourselves and our neighbours. Yet they are used to make sport of us,—as a people bound up in formalities, habits, fancies; and the phrase "Laissez aller" is theirs, not ours! So far as we can translate, then, the opening of the new opera-house does not appear to have been at all brilliant.—The prologue was a *pasticcio* by MM. Auber, Carafa, and Halévy: to which the first-named composer is said (after Rossini's fashion) to have merely contributed some music from the 'Duc d'Olonne.' The inaugural opera, 'Gastibelza,' by M. Maillard, one of the "unrepresented musicians," is pronounced clever and effective—and praised, too, as splendidly put upon the stage; but it seems a

work of academical cleverness rather than of such genius as will run. On the second evening, the 'Aline' of Berton was revived,—the score having been retouched by M. Adam. The theatre is described as very handsome, capable of accommodating some hundreds more than the *Grand Opera* (its very size, we submit, rendering it somewhat ineligible for music of the *Boulevard* quality inconsistently demanded by the patrons and watchers of Art). The choruses and orchestra are said to be good, all things considered,—the company ample rather than first-rate. MM.les. Courant and Bourdot, M. Pauly (*baritone*), M. Fosse (*tenor*), and M. Junca (*basso*) are said to have given most satisfaction. But the *troupe* must be weaker than that of the *Théâtre de la Renaissance* as we recollect it, with Mdes. Thillon and Ozi, and MM. Laborde, Euzet, &c. &c.; and that third Opera-house, near a genteel Boulevard,—in spite of the success of one or two pieces given,—could not keep its doors open.

There is also some stir in other branches of music in Paris. A new Mass by M. Dietach was to be given, on St. Cecilia's Day, in the Church of St. Eustache, for the benefit of a musical charity.—M. Elwart announces for an early day the performance of a new Ode-Symphony, 'The Birth of Eve,' composed by him. M. David, too, is about to produce again his 'Moïse,' with many changes and improvements. The taste for chamber-music appears increasing (or returning?)—the success of the party of MM. Hallé and Alard having led to the projection of othersubscription concerts for the performance of works on a larger scale—septet, octet, &c. The truth is—nor can it be stated too often—that the Benefit Concert has lost its power to charm. Inferior and superior artists, both, have ruined it by their charity; and the necessity of new combinations—or of a revival of what is more artistically sound—is felt even more keenly in Paris than in London.

The romanticists in music affix titles to their works so capriciously that we are by no means certain what we ought to expect when reading in the foreign papers that M. Liszt has composed, during his stay in the East, a march symphony (*quære*, symphonic march?), which is full of effect. He will shortly, we are told, arrive at Weimar, to pass the winter,—called thither by his duties as Director of the Court Music.

The Danish government seems afraid of the *Lieder-tafel* societies, or rather of their politics. Those of North Germany are said to have asked permission to celebrate their next year's meeting at Kiel in Holstein,—and to have been refused—on the plea of a secondary purpose having too largely shown itself at certain former assemblages.

The following note has been forwarded to us.—

Your dramatic critic is mistaken in fancying the lively farce of 'Confounded Foreigners' to be either new or composed by Mr. Ranger. So far from this, it is now nearly ten years old; having been written for that gentleman and poor Power by Mr. George Dance and Mr. Hamilton Reynolds:—the latter of whom addressed a note to the *Athenæum* on the subject, [vide Nos. 533 and 534].

Mrs. Glover, we are happy to find, is again enabled to resume her engagement. On Wednesday she performed *Widow Green*, in 'The Love Chase.'

A pair of Dromios have made their appearance on either side of the Boulevards, in Paris: two "Honest men"—or little comedies with precisely the same invention, one by M. Scribe for M. Ferville, at the *Gymnase*, the other by M. Bayard, for M. Bouffé, at the *Paritéts*. The question of who owns the invention is of infinite value, as may be conceived to MM. les feuilletonists.—A long melodrama, 'Les Paysans,' dramatized from one of the discouraging novels of M. de Balzac, is the newest piece of misery produced at that theatre of horrors which is called the *Ambigu-Comique*.

MISCELLANEA

Transmission of the Queen's Speech by Electric Telegraph.—On Tuesday, the electric telegraph was brought into active operation on a grand scale, for the purpose of transmitting the Queen's speech to the various large towns and cities throughout England and Scotland. An early copy of the speech, specially granted for the purpose, was expressed from Westminster to the central stations in the Strand and at Euston-square,—both of which places it reached by about a quarter past one. The manipulators at

these stations, having touched the wires,—communicating with every telegraph station throughout the kingdom, thereby sounding a bell at each, and giving the note of preparation,—commenced throwing off in a continuous stream along the wires successive sentences of the speech. This operation occupied from a quarter past one to a quarter to three, on the principal lines of telegraph; but considerably less—owing to the greater proficiency of the manipulators—on the Eastern Counties and South-Western. It was completed to Southampton, where a steamer was in readiness to express the speech to the continent, in about an hour. During the two hours the speech was transmitted over 1,300 miles, to 60 central towns or stations, where one or more manipulators were occupied in deciphering the transmitted symbols. Immediately on its arrival at Liverpool, Birmingham, Rotherham, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax, Hull, Rochdale, Gosport, Southampton, Dorchester, Gloucester, Leicester, Manchester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Sheffield, York, Newcastle, Norwich, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, the speech was printed and generally distributed,—and the local papers published special editions.—*Daily News*.

The Scandinavian "Berserker."—Can any of your Celtic or Saxon correspondents give me an explanation of the following matter?—In the early Scandinavian legends we find the word *Berserker* applied to a race of warriors who went *unarmed* to battle. This word Taylor, in his 'History of German Poetry,' translates confidently "Bareshirt;" and Sir F. Madden follows him, but with a query. Perhaps we should not expect a translation of *Berserker* in modern German—and we do not find it. *Ber* is "bare"—but it is not likely that the first syllable of the word should be German and the second Celtic; and we know that "serk" is from the latter language and is still used in the north. There is not such a word in German. It strikes me as very unlikely, also, that the inhabitants of those northern climes should go to battle naked—for shirts in our acceptance of the term they certainly had not. I am more inclined to take the whole word from Celtic; and refer the first syllable either to *Bur*, "bear," or to *Ber*, "sheep"—and conclude that these people fought in their common clothing, the skins of beasts, whence they obtained their name in contradistinction to the mailed warriors of the higher ranks. If we translate "Bareshirt," we must certainly put in the "of." I read the word, "naked," whether as applied to the Britons and Picts or to the ships mentioned in the Welsh Triads, as meaning—in the first instance men not wearing armour, but clad in skins—and in the last instance wooden ships, not covered with hides as the coracles were. It is very probable that the Scandinavians and Germans would go to battle in skins of beasts. Such a dress was that of royalty—and accorded well with the martial weapon, the club. Armour was the safeguard of later times—and at first used only by chiefs. Also, we may well believe the description of the fury or madness of these hardy warriors. They then fought on the spot for their homes and families; and the feelings natural to man would inspire them with the madness attributed to them. All that regards those brave Vikings is so interesting that I trust this inquiry of mine will be pardoned; and that the descendants of the Royal Scythians may be rescued from the somewhat contemptuous appellation which Mr. Taylor has bestowed upon them. C. F.

General Post-Office Notice.—Hereafter any writing or marks will be allowed on a newspaper passing by post between one part of the United Kingdom and another, provided that a postage of a penny be prepaid by means of a stamp conspicuously affixed outside the cover or folded newspaper,—it being understood, that in those cases where the newspaper may be liable to postage irrespective of such writings or marks (as when it is both posted and delivered in the same town) the penny stamp shall cover the writing and the postage also. But this privilege is to be confined to writing or marks on the newspaper itself,—and is not to extend to the cover, which, as heretofore, must contain nothing but the address. Any writing or marks other than the address on the cover, (if the postage be not prepaid as above) on the newspaper itself,—will subject the newspaper to the same rate of postage as that to which an unpaid letter

of the same weight is liable. Newspapers to or from the colonies and parts abroad will continue liable to treble rate of postage when written upon or when containing enclosures.

The Solar Eclipse.—Signor Gallo, an Italian savant, has communicated to the *Osservatore Triestino* the following particulars relating to a disputed phenomenon for which the late eclipse was anxiously watched.—“The beautiful eclipse which we yesterday admired was announced by me as early as January, 1846, in the ‘scientific gathering’ at Rome directed by Dr. Palomba. That announcement determined the Chevalier Ernesto Capocci, director of the Royal Observatory of Naples, to pay us a visit for the purpose of verifying a phenomenon which—pointed out by some astronomers of antiquity, and again witnessed by Bailly in Scotland during the annular eclipse of the 15th of May, 1836—was not verified on the occasion of the memorable total eclipse of the 8th of July, 1842. The following is the phenomenon in dispute.—In an annular eclipse, the western limb of the moon appears indented like a saw, the instant it begins to be internally detached from the sun’s western limb,—that is to say, when the ring is formed. These indentations immediately expand; and almost simultaneously the limbs of the two stars appear united by rectilinear streaks, parallel, black, and perfectly distinct. Eventually, all these streaks suddenly disappear. This phenomenon occurs as if the limbs of the two stars were fastened together by a glutinous matter adhering to certain points of the sun, the ligaments of which are distended and finally snapped asunder by the motion of the moon. On the approximating of the eastern limb of the moon to the eastern limb of the sun, the phenomenon reappears in inverse order. The black and parallel lines are the first to appear instantaneously; the indentations succeed these lines; and finally, previous to the occultation of the sun’s eastern limb, the limb of the moon appears crowned with irregular luminous grains between obscure spaces. These grains gradually dilate; and, on their disappearance, the eclipse comes to an end.—An unexpectedly splendid serenity of the sky was very favourable for our observations; although in the short time which elapsed between the tempest of the night of the 8th of October and the most remarkable period of the eclipse it was impossible for the atmosphere to regain that perfect calmness which is favourable for celestial observations. The Neapolitan astronomer M. Capocci was provided with a telescope made by Benchi, of Paris, 40 inches in length, with a magnifying power of about 40; and I myself was furnished with an excellent dialtic from the manufactory of Kohlgrub, near Monaco, in Bavaria, 28 inches long, with a magnifying power of 45 to 70. Both of us, without neglecting the customary observations, devoted our special attention to the above-mentioned phenomenon,—and verified it in all its details, and with signal success, at the moment of the rupture of the ring; and, although the agitation of the air made the limbs of the two stars appear somewhat confused and oscillating, we distinctly descried, and in great numbers, the mysterious obscure lines,—which appeared to us most subtle and fugitive between the oscillations of the limbs. Far, therefore, from admitting, with M. Arago, that ‘the astronomer who has very exactly adapted his telescope to his own point of sight ought not to perceive the phenomenon’ (‘*Annuaire*’ for the year 1846), I ought rather to affirm that we distinctly beheld it with telescopes regulated to our own point of sight,—which we easily verified by reviewing the most apparent of the ten beautiful spots that appeared on the face of the sun during the eclipse. I may add, therefore, that the Chevalier Capocci having succeeded in artificially renewing the phenomenon no less than three times,—and in each experiment retaining the eye-glass of Benchi’s telescope at my own point of sight,—every doubt was removed from my mind respecting the reality of the black lines; and I remain persuaded that the explanation which he had given me was far more conclusive than that of the Director of the Observatory of Paris.”

Novel Application of Electricity.—The *Pittsburgh Journal* has examined an invention made by Mr. Lilley of that city, in connexion with Dr. Colton,—which seems to challenge attention, not only for the ingenuity which it displays but the useful results which it promises. The machine is a small

locomotive; and is placed on a circular railroad, around which it is driven by electricity. The power is applied, not to the locomotive, but to the track:—and herein consists the novelty of the invention or discovery. Two currents of electricity, negative and positive, are applied to the rails,—and from thence communicate with the engine. The latter is provided with two magnets, which, by a process of alternate attraction and repulsion, drive the car over the track. A piece of lead was placed on the locomotive, making in all a weight of about ten pounds; and on the application of the battery, the machine moved with astonishing rapidity up a plane inclined about five degrees. Heretofore, the propelling power has been used on the car itself: in this instance, however, the power is placed in the rails,—and an engineer might remain in one town, and with his battery send a locomotive and train to any distance required.—*New York Literary World.*

Post-Office and Pirates.—Governments, it would seem, will never be thoroughly reconciled to newspapers; they are felt to be, as Sheridan said, the most formidable form that opposition can take. They have been taxed in every way: the paper they are printed on pays an enormous duty; their advertisements another—checking a publicity most beneficial to all portions of the community; and every sheet pays a third tax, amounting in the average to twenty per cent. of the gross returns.

This last week the arbitrary exercise of perhaps a necessary duty, has led to very great inconvenience to the public and loss to newspaper proprietors. It appears that a paper belonging to a class that offers itself at a price that cannot pay for original contributions and the necessary expenses attendant on a well-conducted newspaper, sent a large quantity of its papers unstamped through the post. A most unwarrantable and indefensible proceeding,—but it should not act, as it has, injuriously upon those who denounce such conduct. Our Aberdeen agent writes us word that he could not serve any one of his customers with our paper because 31. 7s. were demanded at the Post-Office,—some, as it is conjectured, of the unstamped paper already alleged to being inserted ignorantly by the London agent in the same packet. It is surely hard that the Post-office authorities should aid that portion of the press by keeping back the papers of those who are scrupulous to comply with the law, and render it so large a revenue. The newspapers which largely provide original matter suffer enough already by the piracy of the disreputable portion of the cheap press; the leaders, correspondence, and criticism being frequently, and in some instances constantly, taken the same day of publication, and transferred verbatim.—The press is perhaps the most important implement of public power; and as it reëts after all in the hands and will of its readers, to them we appeal to aid in removing the impediments existing to its free and rapid circulation and moral elevation.—*Douglas Jerrold’s Newspaper.*

Clove-worts are Poisonous.—M. Malapert, conjointly with M. Bonnet, has shown that *Saponaria officinalis* and *Agrostemma Cithago* are poisonous, and ascribes this to their containing saponine. In the last plant the saponine occurs principally in the ripe and immature seed, and also in the roots; but the other parts contain none. *Silene nutans* contains at least as much saponine as *Saponaria*, but here it is diffused throughout the plant, except in the seed. The author, moreover, found this principle in *Dianthus caryophyllus*, *D. Cæsius*, *D. Carthusianus*, *D. profliferus* (chiefly in the roots, less in the leaves, and not at all in the flowers and seed), *Lychnis dioica*, *L. chalcidonica*, *L. fls cuculi*, *Silene inflata*, *Cucubalus Behen*, and in *Anagallis arvensis* and *A. cærulea*, but not in *Arenaria*, *Stellaria*, and *Holostemum*. Fremy found saponine in the horse chestnut; the author has also detected it in the fruit, but in no other part of the tree.—*Journal de Pharm.*, in *Chemical Gazette*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—H. J. B.—H. W. H.—A. J. S.—J. E. G.—Cola Rienzi.—T. G.—C. H. P.—T. C. C.—D. D.—G. W. B.—received.

S. S. H.—We have already given our opinion that the argument of our last week’s correspondent S. H. is unsound:—and, quite unconsciously, S. S. H. confirms that view. Nothing in such a matter could be much more absurd than Mr. Vandenhoff’s rule—if it be not the manner in which our present correspondent thinks he has defended it.

Erratum.—P. 1195, col. 3, l. 88, dele “to.”

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